

Police force 'can no longer cope with thefts'

Tide of burglaries and thefts has made the police ineffective and the public must assume responsibility for protecting its own property, Sir Robert Mark, the former Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday. In London last year only 9 per cent of burglaries were cleared. The blame, he said, must rest not with the police but with successive governments since the 1950s which had treated the service with contempt pay and conditions.

Sir Robert Mark blames ministers

Sir Robert Mark, former Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday that the police could no longer cope with the tide of burglaries and thefts in London. He said the police were ineffective and the public must assume responsibility for protecting its own property. He blamed successive governments since the 1950s for treating the police with contempt in terms of pay and conditions.

war London had probably been one of the most under-policed capital cities of the world, he added. But new pay rises and increased recruitment would not reduce crime for profit unless increased detection was followed by the near certainty of conviction of the guilty. The growth of gangs like the Richardsons and the Krays in the 1960s had been facilitated by the acquittal of the deliberate wrongdoers. At one time there was unjustifiable reliance on severe and barbaric punishment. Then capital and corporal punishment was removed, alongside a softening of reaction to criminals. That was followed by a resolute opposition to any charge that would be likely to increase the effectiveness of the justice system. Since 1967 "virtually every change in laws relating to criminal procedure and police has been favourable to the 'wrongdoer'." Today, Sir Robert said, governments are unlikely to show any special concern for the victims of crime against property. Faced with various pressures, they would not contemplate strengthening the prosecution process and "prefer crime, liberty and votes to the restriction of liberty and consequent unpopularity necessary to achieve crime."

Stonehouse operation delayed by dispute

The family says that, because of protest action, it might be four or five weeks before Mr Stonehouse can have the operation. The Home Office said it could not discuss treatment for Mr Stonehouse but added that recent tests were not brought about by a change in his condition. The hospital said: "We do not know when he will be coming because of the strain we are working under. Each case is considered on clinical merits. Mr Stonehouse will be given the same priority as any other case. We are down to one autoclave serving the whole hospital."

Boycott wants to meet full committee only

A second invitation by Yorkshire CCC to Geoffrey Boycott to meet their full committee brought a statement from him that he would be glad to meet the general body. By inference this means that Boycott wishes to have no dealings with the body that sacked him from the captaincy. Boycott, who is due to leave the England team on Tuesday, says in a letter to *The Times* he hopes the matter will be resolved this week "so that I can fly to Australia knowing that my efforts to eradicate disloyalty have achieved success."

EEC prosecution likely

A decision is expected today from the European Commission to prosecute Britain in the European Court of Justice for several of the recent fish conservation measures introduced unilaterally. Page 8

New Pontiff places much weight on discipline in the Church but gives hope to ecumenical movement

The Pope pledges to follow directives of the Second Vatican Council

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Oct 17
The new Pope, John Paul II, opened his pontificate today with a lofty message to the world which might have appeared somewhat daunting if Cardinal Humo, the Archbishop of Westminster, had not added this afternoon that the pontiff's face could indeed look severe. "But when the recognition of a friend is there, it lights up in a lovely way."

That sums up the first impressions of this Polish Pope. Speaking in Latin during Mass in the Sistine Chapel, the Pope made it clear that his policy would be one of continuity. Above all, he insisted on the constant importance of the second Vatican Council. He considered it his primary duty to promote the most exact execution of the norms and directives of the Council.

This insistence on the need to follow the policies of Paul VI, with whom he was undoubtedly close, and with the pledges made by his short-lived predecessor, John Paul I. Nevertheless, there was a clearer note in what he said than was usually the case with Paul VI: his definitions were more exact. He will evidently be a demanding Pope on matters which he regards as of fundamental importance.

Over and above the Council he saw the need for total fidelity to the mission which he had received, and this he expressed in the most absolute terms in speaking of the scriptural authority of his own office. He placed much weight on what he called "the great discipline of the Church". He said that discipline was not aimed only at mortification, but also as a guarantee for the correct ordering proper to the mystical body. He pleaded the ecumenists saying that the ecumenical cause was so great and delicate

that he could not let it go unmentioned. It did not seem possible that there would still remain the drama of division among Christians, a cause of confusion, he said, and perhaps even of scandal. "We intend, therefore, to proceed along the way already begun, by removing those steps which serve to remove obstacles. Hopefully, then, thanks to a common effort we might arrive finally at full communion."

It was noticed that he made no reference in this initial message to the doctrine of Rome, which for the first time since the sixteenth century has been placed in the hands of a non-Italian bishop. The fact that he overlooked his diocese gives the whole speech a much more universal character. The effort was strong today among many of the cardinals as they left the conclave to diminish any political calculation in the selection, despite the clear significance of the choice of a Pope from a country not only extremely Catholic but ruled by communists. Cardinal Deardel, said in answer to questions on the political importance of the election: "I think you are putting more into the context he came from than we did."

All nine American cardinals were agreed that they had looked at the candidates' personal qualities rather than his political background. Cardinal Ruess was a little more frank without being any more revealing. Asked whether the Sacred College was being deliberately misled, or simply innocently in seeking to overlook the political importance of the election, he found a quotation from Queen Elizabeth I who, when asked whether she would marry, said something to the effect of: "Forsooth, my answer must be answerless."

The Pope's text, page 7

Police are cleared over Liddle Towers

From Ronald Kershaw
Bishop Auckland

A unanimous verdict of death by misadventure was returned by a jury at Bishop Auckland, co Durham, last night at the second inquest on Mr Liddle Towers, aged 39, a boxing coach, who died in February 1976, three weeks after his arrest by the police.

The jury considered its verdict for an hour and three quarters after Mr Harold Hewitt, the coroner had summed up for five hours and eight minutes. He had told the jury that it could reach three possible verdicts: unlawful killing, misadventure, or open. A verdict of justifiable homicide, returned by the first jury two years ago and later set aside by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, was not a possibility, he said.

The coroner said the jury should reach a verdict of unlawful killing only if it was satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that there was either an unlawful arrest and the violence in that arrest caused the death, or that unreasonable force was used during a lawful arrest and that unreasonable force caused death.

He said: "There may be circumstances in which you think in part of the arrest the force was unreasonable but that during another part there was violence used which was unreasonable."

I do not know, it is a matter for you. But it is only if you are satisfied that the part of the force that was unreasonable caused the death that it would be unlawful killing."

If the jury thought, for example, that there was some kicking but that on the medical evidence the kicking did not cause the death, then, although it would be highly reprehensible for a police officer to do it, it would not be unlawful killing. Under Coroners' Rules the jury could not reach a verdict that named a particular person as being responsible. "Therefore if you are driven to reach a verdict of unlawful killing it would not be open to you to say by whom, even if you could. If you think the force was reasonable in the circumstances, then you would return a verdict of death by misadventure even if you thought that, in the course of it, there were some acts that went beyond the bounds of proper conduct on the part of the police officers if you are not satisfied that those acts caused the death."

An open verdict would be the middle course but he warned the jurors: "It should not be used by you as a kind of safety net."

Record paid for 1855 stamp

Hamburg, Oct 17.—The world's second most sought-after stamp, an 1855 Swedish three shilling issue, was auctioned here today for a record DM 1m (£270,000). The stamp, thought to be the only one of its kind, was bought by a Hamburg lawyer acting for an anonymous private collector. It was last bought in 1930 by a French collector. The world's most sought-after stamp, from British Guyana, fetched about £209,000 in New York in 1970.—Agence France Presse.



A Vietnamese refugee playing on her first day in London. (Report, page 2.)

Refugee Croat journalist living in London shot dead at friend's Paris flat

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 17

Mr Bruno Busic, a Yugoslav journalist living in exile in London, was shot dead last night as he returned to the flat of a friend with whom he was staying in Paris.

Mr Busic, aged 39, was actively engaged in politics and was known for his opposition to the regime of President Tito. He was a member of the management committee of the Croat nationalist organisation Mstika. His murder occurred just before midnight as he was returning to the flat in the Rue de Belleville, north-eastern Paris, where he was staying with a communist. Access to the building is through a grill into a small internal courtyard from which a staircase leads to the upper floors.

As he was crossing the courtyard a man ran up behind him. According to one of the tenants, who happened to be at his window closing the shutters at the time, Mr Busic spun round and was hit by a bullet in the chest. He was pulled out by a neighbour and fired five shots at point blank range into the Croat nationalist's head.

The killer then fled into the street. Tenants alerted by the shots ran down stairs and found that



Mr Bruno Busic: Violent articles attacking Yugoslavia.

Mr Busic, although bleeding profusely, was not unconscious. He was apparently able to utter some words before he collapsed and died giving the French crime squad something to work on.

While releasing no official information so far, it is understood that the police are convinced that the attack was prompted by political considerations.

Mr Busic was a prominent Croat nationalist and wrote virulent articles in both Britain and France, attacking the Yugo-

slav regime. He was also known to act as a go-between for the different Croat nationalist groups in Europe. His latest pamphlet attacking President Tito appeared only a few days ago.

Mstika, although it opposes the present Yugoslav regime, is not as extreme a group as the Ustaša, a nationalist organisation fighting for complete Croat independence. However, it seems that Mr Busic had recently been adopting a stronger personal line than the organisation itself.

Stewart Tendler writes: Mr Busic fled from Yugoslavia in 1975 after serving a two-and-a-half-year prison sentence for his writings. Based in London, he became a leading propagandist among exiled Croats and, apparently fearing attack, led a cautious, discreet existence.

Elected last year as general secretary for propaganda and press to the Croat National Congress, Mr Busic was banned from visiting West Germany earlier this year as a terrorist suspect.

But Mr Busic was related to Mr Yonko Butic, who led an aircraft hijacking by Croat nationalists in 1976, and his friends admit they do not know how far his involvement in Croat politics may have taken him.

Financial: Thompson recalled by Scotland, Frank Gray by Scotland for European championship matches; Cricket: India protest about boycotters.

Business News, pages 20-26
Stock markets: Ciffs and equities had a better day and the FT Ordinary share index firmed 3.9 to close at 438.5, at its best level of the day.

Financial Editor: Marks and Spencer makes hay at home; Furness Withy riding the recession; Brooke Bond Lichs expansion plans.

Business features: Nicholas Hirst and Malcolm Brown on the uneasy relationship between the nationalised industries and government; John Earle describes how Italy's small steelmakers are trying to counter foreign criticism.

Business Diary: A new tax-cutting pressure group.

Ministers planning a new pay restraint pact with the unions

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Government is working for a new agreement with the TUC over pay policy, not simply an improvement on the present 5 per cent guideline, which most unions reject. That hopeful objective was disclosed by senior ministers as some of their colleagues last night, led by Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, resumed talks with the TUC on the 5 per cent limit.

The new agreement is not expected to be in place by the time of the state opening of Parliament on November 1. But the Government, ebulliently confident of surviving the vote after the Queen's Speech on November 8, is hoping that by the end of the year Mr Callaghan will have something solid to announce.

The few hints available of what the Government has in mind point to a more comprehensive agreement with the TUC than the attempts last year and this to impose a guideline; rather to the agreement on Phase Two in 1976, the last time the TUC assented to pay restraint.

At that time the Government claimed that the average pay limit would finish at about 4 per cent, in return for which the Government promised a series of social measures and was required to press ahead with socialist policies, including such things as nationalisation, increases in expenditure and a wealth tax, which has still not appeared.

It is not certain how many new policies the Government will be able to offer the unions in the Queen's Speech, although the Joint TUC-Labour Party document, *Into the Eighties: An Agreement* points the way to new policies.

It is possible that some of them may be put to Parliament even though both Government and unions accept that their chances of passage are slight until Labour is returned with a majority.

The important point being made is that the unions wish to end the appearance of rupture with the Government; and the Government wishes to restore the authority that was savaged by the unions with the passage at the Labour Party conference of the resolution opposing all wage restraints.

A Bill fulfilling the Speaker's Conference recommendations to increase the number of Ulster MPs at Westminster is certain, although it cannot come into force until after the next general election.

Also certain are orders for the devolution referendums in Scotland and Wales, to be held probably next March or April.

OTHER PAY NEWS
Leaders of 26,000 Vauxhall manual workers have given 14 days' strike notice over their demand for more than the 4.2 to 4.95 per cent pay offer made. 2
Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Kodak factories rejected a call to strike for a pay rise exceeding 5 per cent. 2
The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service has been called in to the hospital engineers' and supervisors' dispute after the failure of peace talks. 3
Ford will have stands but no vehicles at the International Motor Show because of a ban by the Transport and General Workers' Union. 21

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Briton's Nobel prize

The Nobel Prize for chemistry has been awarded this year to Dr Peter Mitchell of Bodmin, Cornwall, for his work on the energy supply systems in living cells. The physics prize is shared by a Russian, Professor Piotr Kapitsa of Moscow, and two Americans, Dr Arno A. Penzias and Dr Robert W. Wilson of New Jersey. Page 8

Karpov set for victory

Viktor Korchnoi's gallant attempt to win the world chess championship appears to have failed at the very last moment. There is virtually no hope of saving his position in the adjourned thirty-second game, and Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, appears to have won his battle to retain his crown. Page 8

Sex case sentence

A teenage gang, three boys and two girls, were sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to imprisonment and detention for a sexual attack on a girl aged 13. Judge King-Hamilton, QC, ordered an investigation into how the girl had managed to get out of a council hostel. Page 3

Threat to Phalangists

Arab foreign ministers have issued eight recommendations at the end of their summit conference on Lebanon which would effectively curb the country's Christian militias. In Washington, Israel and Egypt have agreed on arbitration should disputes arise during finalisation of the peace treaty being implemented there. President Carter is to have separate meetings with both delegations. Page 8

Prisoners' leave

The Home Office is urgently considering ways of giving prisoners more home leave. One idea being examined is to give family leave at regular intervals after expiry of part of a sentence, irrespective of the length of the sentence. Christmas visits home by people with young families are also being considered. Page 2

Namibia: Compromise proposal for two polls in South-West Africa makes slow progress in Pretoria.

Pakistan: Bhutto newspaper is first to be precensored by Islamabad Government. 9
The Australians: An eight-page Special Report on the people of a maturing Pacific power.

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Letters: On Rhodesia, from Mr Julian Amery, MP, and Mr Christopher E. Hill; on trade unions, from Sir Leonard Neal.

Leading articles: Lessons of Luxembourg; Canadian by-elections; The bankers.

Features, pages 16 and 18
Bernard Levin on the Uperovers in South Africa; Guest column by Harry Gregory.

Arts, page 11
Peter Brook talks to John Higgins about *Antony and Cleopatra*; Michael Church on *Word for Word* (BBC2); Stanley Sadleir on Taylor on Birmingham art exhibition; Irving Wardle on *The Changing of the Guard* (Theatre).

Obituary, page 19
Sir John Giovanni Grouchi; Mr F. W. Bateson; Mr Dan Dalley. Sport, pages 13 and 14.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Ennals invites Acas to conciliate after links to resolve hospital dispute break down

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The stricken tanker, Christos Bitas, her deck lying evenly in the water, riding out the gale yesterday.

Tanker riding out gale

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Judge calls for an inquiry after sentencing gang

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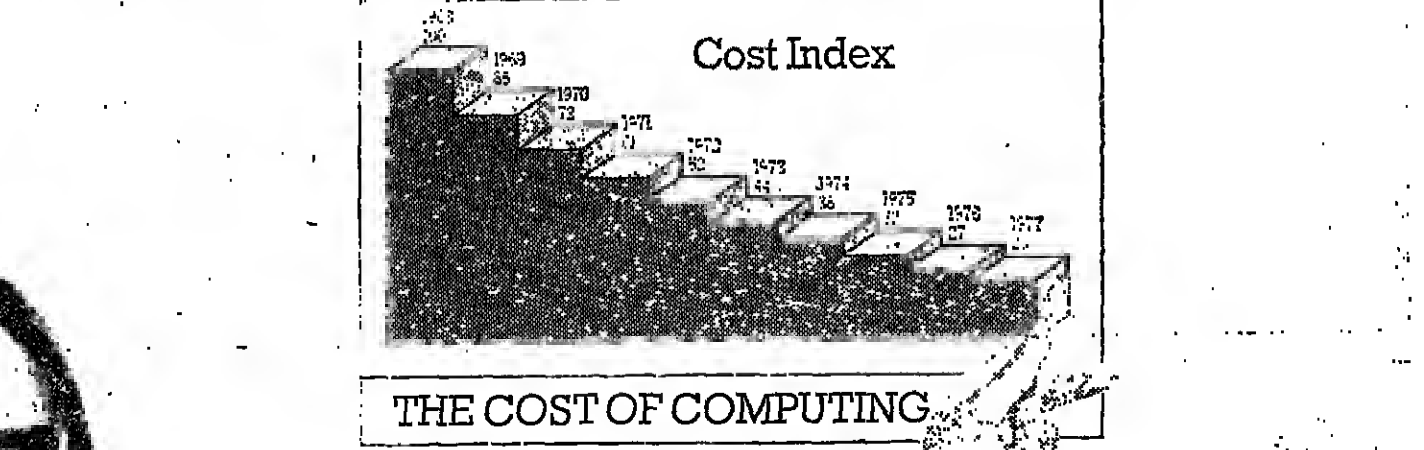
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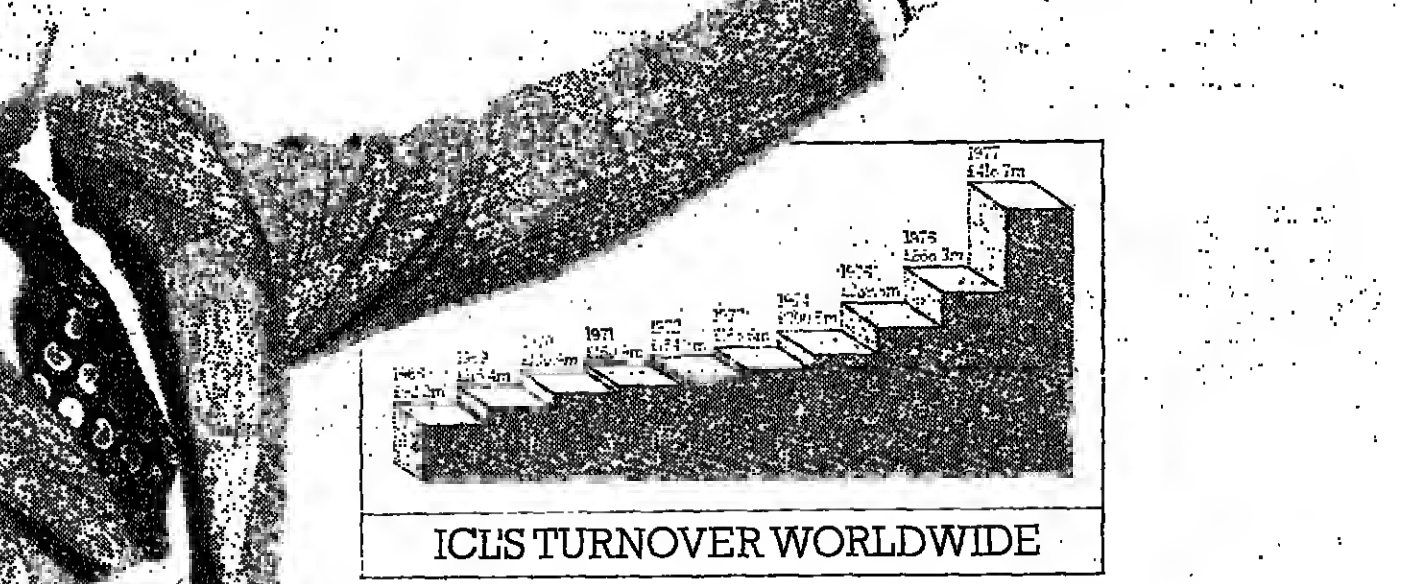
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Telegraph' strike checks a sequence of success

The strike that has stopped the Daily Telegraph appearing for a fortnight has affected the company in the middle of its third good year.

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Crown Agents' controller explains why he resigned

The tribunal investigating the £236m loss by the Crown Agents learnt yesterday why a man resigned from the organisation after being given an important job.

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HOME NEWS

EEC changes sought to facilitate research into plastics based on food

by Hugh Clayton

British companies want changes in EEC farm policy that will remove obstacles to research on plastics derived from food instead of from oil. Research has begun in Latin America on producing a petrol substitute based on sugar. British and North American companies want to start work on plastics based on maize and perhaps on wheat and rice.

The advantage of crops as a base compared with oil is that they can be renewed each year. Mr Richard Wright, chairman of the British Maize Refiners' Association, told reporters in London yesterday: "You can make plastic bottles out of starch. Starch is biodegradable. The process of polymerization, which is the key to plastics manufacture, has been found to apply to starch as well as to hydrocarbons."

Research on plant derivatives is so complex and expensive that only the largest companies can afford it. But the idea behind it is simple. There is no population growth in the richest parts of the EEC, so that companies who want to cut the unit costs of their investment in food machinery by increasing sales must do so by finding markets that do not involve eating and drinking.

Mr Wright, who is technical director of a subsidiary of Tate & Lyle, said: "Our industry is already competing with adhesives produced by polymerization of oil." Mr Peter Ware, chairman of the Association of Amidoneries de Mais de la Communauté Economique

Européenne representing maize starch refiners, said: "Sales of adhesives for all purposes in the United Kingdom total about 160,000 tonnes a year. Cereal-based adhesives account for less than 10 per cent of that."

Mr Ware is also managing director of the British arm of Corn Products Company of New York, one of the largest maize-refining groups in the world, which is best known in Britain for such products as Mazola maize oil. He said that the American parent company had once been saved from bankruptcy by an oil group.

"I think we could possibly go back to this kind of joint approach," he said. "We might join with the petrochemical industry to launch a massive research programme."

He said capacity for research was hampered by the continuing lack of satisfactory rules for starch under the common agricultural policy of the EEC. "The Community price for maize now is obscene," he said. It cost £100 a tonne while maize from outside was arriving in Rotterdam at £50. "We are looking into the 1980s, the 1990s and the next century," he added. "We are looking forward to being a major supplier of petrochemical replacer."

The association has appealed to the European Commission to adopt standing rules for starch to replace what it calls "ad hoc decisions regarding raw material prices on an annual basis." It wants a new stability to create a reasonable and predictable raw material cost.

Tawse case publicity opposed by solicitor

From Our Correspondent Dunfermline

An attempt by the Education Institute of Scotland to breach the confidentiality of the Tawse case, which was heard in private by the European Commission on Human Rights last week, was strongly opposed by one of the Scottish solicitors acting in the case.

Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian, was ejected from the hearing after protesting against statements made by one lawyer comparing the corporal punishment of children in Scottish schools with the racial policies of Nazi Germany.

Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the institute, has written to the commission asking for clarification of what occurred.

Mr Graham Cox, a Dunfermline solicitor, is acting for one of the parents who have complained about the use of the tawse, a type of leather strap. He said of Mr Pollock's action: "It is not difficult to imagine a case that could have serious repercussions for the complainant in his or her own country if confidentiality was broken before the commission decided whether there were sufficient grounds or evidence for the case to be brought before the European Court of Human Rights."

He added that the statement that caused Mr Dalyell to leave the hearing was not put forward on behalf of his client nor was any attempt made to denigrate Scottish teachers.

Hunt saboteurs plan to battle on despite decision to let 2,300 seals live Protesters condemn action against local cull

Greenpeace, the conservation group, yesterday condemned any attempt to sabotage the cull of grey seals in Orkney and the Western Isles of Scotland. Such action would be totally misplaced, it said.

The Scottish Office had planned to cull 5,800 pups and adult seals, killed by Norwegian and local sealers. But Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced on Monday that the Norwegians' target of 2,300 seals was to be abandoned in the face of public pressure, and that local hunters would be restricted to shooting 2,000 pups, as in previous years.

Both Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund are satisfied with this reduction and will not oppose the local cull, but the Hunt Saboteurs Association plans to continue its agitation. Mr David Watton, the secretary, has said that

members will go to Orkney to confront the local cullers. "A British buller is as lethal as a Norwegian one," he said.

Mr Peter Wilkinson, the main Greenpeace coordinator of the campaign, said yesterday: "We want nothing to do with anyone who tries to stop the local hunters."

About sixteen local hunters licensed to cull by the Scottish Office are expected to start work as soon as public agitation dies away.

Greenpeace said: "We do not sanction the culling of any animal. But our fight has been against the Scottish Office, which has consistently refused to publish the figures backing up its decision to hold a cull on the scale originally envisaged."

"It has never been our intention to interfere with the local hunters, who have been carrying out their own, far smaller, cull for years. Now

that their numbers have been brought down to what they were before, it would be quite wrong for us to oppose them. Any attempt to stop them going ahead would be totally misplaced."

Police in Kirkwall, Orkney, however, discounted the threat from the Hunt Saboteurs Association. "These people will not be too much of a bother," an officer said. "Our boys know what they are doing and can look after themselves."

He pointed to the sea spray lashing across the main street from the storm which has been building up for two days, and said: "There is no way these people can get across to seal islands in their boats. But it will be no problem in the local hunters."

Mr Millan's decision has surprised the Scottish Fishermen's Association. Mr Roddie McColl, its assistant secretary, said: "People forget that

almost 60,000 metric tons of fish is eaten in this year by seals. This is an emotional subject that has been blown up out of all proportion."

Mr Millan has said that the protesters have failed to produce any evidence to change his belief that the larger cull is necessary mainly because of the estimated £12m worth of fish eaten each year by the seals.

Conservationists who had camped on various remote breeding grounds in Orkney were gradually returning to Kirkwall yesterday. A group of six, including a woman who had stayed nine days on North Rona, 100 miles off shore, were being picked up by the Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace vessel expected in Kirkwall early today.

The ship Kivring, with the Norwegian hunters on board, left Orkney on Monday night.

Tory split on pay policy 'is minute'

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, yesterday played down any suggestion of a split within the Conservative Party over income policy. She said differences within the party were minor compared with the really serious issues facing the country.

Speaking during the election campaign in Berwick, Scotland, she said: "It is absolutely absurd to say everything rotates or per cent. More voters are nationalizing. You will not get freedom or enterprise if you get free enterprise."

Asked if she would give Cabinet post to Mr Edw. Heath, who spoke out at last week's party conference in support of the Government's pay policy, she said: "I shall not make up my mind about the Cabinet until I know the result of the general election."

Mrs Thatcher was speaking at a press conference at Dunfermline, the Scottish town, caused by the death of Mr J. A. Aikman, who won the seat for Labour in October, 1974.

Mrs Thatcher said the prospects were good for the Tories in the election. In her view, the Tories had a "substantial" lead over Labour, most frequently raised by her was tax.

She said even people wearing Labour stickers wanted the Tories to win. "The Tories had a lot of support in the country," she said.

Incomes policy and devaluation were not mentioned at all by the people with whom she spoke, she said.

Of the Conservative attitude to incomes policy, she said: "To hear some of the commentators, you would think the whole of Britain's future depended on 5 per cent. What absolute nonsense."

She said that in some of the speeches at the party conference at Brighton such countries as Germany, South Korea and Taiwan were held up as tremendously successful, yet they had never had an incomes policy.

Candidates: Mr J. H. Robertson (Lab), Miss M. Marshall (C), Mrs J. Lindsay (ENP), and Mr J. Glen (U).

General election: J. P. Macdonald (Lab) 20,682; M. Antram (C) 17,542; R. Macleod (SNP) 15,542; J. Macdonald (U) 2,811; Lab maj: 2,740.

Conservatives' aims over wages 'unaltered'

By Our Political Staff
Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford and formerly one of Mrs Thatcher's shadow Treasury team, said last night that the Conservative Party's official position on pay policy had not shifted since it was set out in the document, *The Right Approach to the Economy*, published a year ago.

Mr Howell, one of the authors of that document, claimed that last week's annual conference had not changed the Conservative stance on pay policy. He said the party's approach was "a sensible approach to pay as a key element". There had been big tax cuts, and child benefit, which was increased in April, would be raised again in November.

"This year pensioners will also share in his improvement because next month pensions go up by nearly 11 per cent—well above the rate of price increases. On top of this increase in the pension the Government has decided to pay a Christmas bonus of £10."

The most important thing, Mr Howell said, was an adequate approach to pay as a key element. There had been big tax cuts, and child benefit, which was increased in April, would be raised again in November.

Responsible bargaining, he said, demanded the right climate and taxation policy played a big part in creating that climate.

Correction

Sir Max Aitken, former chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, was incorrectly described as the late Sir Max Aitken yesterday. We apologise for the error.

'Diversion' accusation on pensions

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

The Government decided yesterday to pay a £10 Christmas bonus this year to each of more than 10 million pensioners, widows and disabled people. It was immediately accused of trying to divert attention from the likelihood that pension increases due next month will be too low to meet its legal obligation to protect them against inflation.

The Government is required by law to raise pensions by the increase in earnings or prices, whichever is greater. Prices have risen by about 3 per cent since the last pension increase, but earnings rose by 14.2 per cent under Phase Three of the pay policy, which ended on July 31. The August figures, to be published today, are expected to show a slight decline in earnings increases.

In a carefully worded statement announcing the bonus yesterday, Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, avoided referring to the increase in earnings, but said the pension increase of nearly 11 per cent was "well above the rate of price increases."

Mr Simon Redditch, head of information at Age Concern, said yesterday: "It is quite clear that the Government is attempting to avoid its moral obligation, and arguably its legal obligation, to protect pensioners against inflation."

The bonus is not only a diversion from the pension increases, which should be at least 14.2 per cent, but it is a diversion in itself because £10 will not maintain the value of the bonus."

When a Christmas bonus of £10 was paid last December, it was estimated that it should be £11 to maintain its value at the 1972 level, when the bonus was introduced. A bonus of the same amount was paid in 1973 and 1974, then discontinued until 1977.

Mr Ennals yesterday referred to a big rise in working people's living standards because of the Government's firm economic policy with "a sensible approach to pay as a key element". There had been big tax cuts, and child benefit, which was increased in April, would be raised again in November.

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Beware heating gimmicks, architects' president says

By Our Planning Reporter

"It was a racing certainty" that a future public would be offered many cheap, gimmicky and worthless methods of reducing their heating bills, Mr Gordon Graham, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said yesterday.

He was introducing a new "calculator package", developed by the Institute, to enable architects to assess the heat loss and consequent energy demands of new buildings.

Mr Graham said that nearly

half Britain's energy requirements were for heating and cooling buildings. Anything that contributed to more efficient design was therefore of great potential benefit.

Mr Bernard Ingham, head of the energy conservation division of the Department of Energy, said fuel costs were likely to double in the next 20 years. Although the "package" was intended for the building industry, he hoped it might be adapted for householders planning alterations to their homes.

Astrid Proll may face six more weeks in prison

Astrid Proll may have to stay at least six more weeks in Brixton prison before the West German Government's case for extradition is heard. It was stated at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday that it would be two weeks before the defence could be given the whole of the evidence against Miss Proll, who was again remanded in custody.

Mr Rudolf Grabner, a representative of the German Government, said later: "I do not think the case will be heard until late November, probably even December. The hearing itself might last up to two weeks."

He said that much of the evidence produced at Miss Proll's trial in West Germany in 1973, which never ended, would be put before the court as part of the West German Government's case.

NATIONAL GIROBANK
Ten years of progress

The Greeks had a word for it—"Gyros" meaning a ring, circle or revolution—from which comes the word 'Giro' to describe the rapid transmission and circulation of money around a single centre.

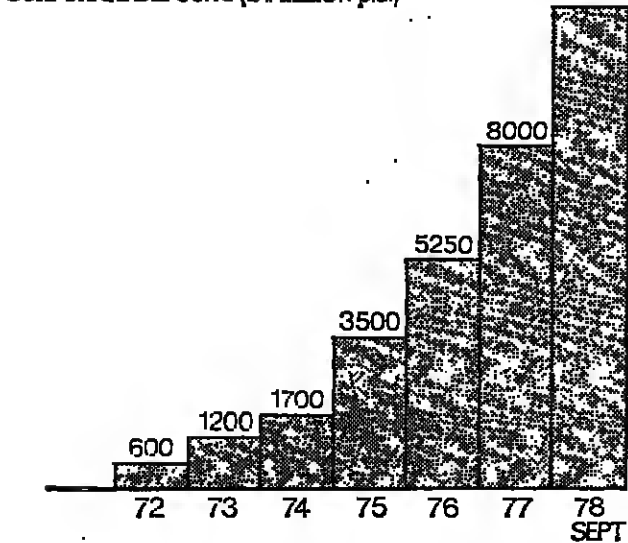
Spread today throughout Europe and elsewhere, the Giro principle extends back to the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia, Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Some 2000 years later, on 18 October, 1968, National Giro was established in the UK. We may have been late starters, and we would not claim to have caused a revolution, but we have achieved much in the last ten years in providing banking services to an ever-increasing number of customers.

NATIONAL GIROBANK SERVICES 10 YEARS ON

We have helped to speed the transfer of funds and reduce costs.

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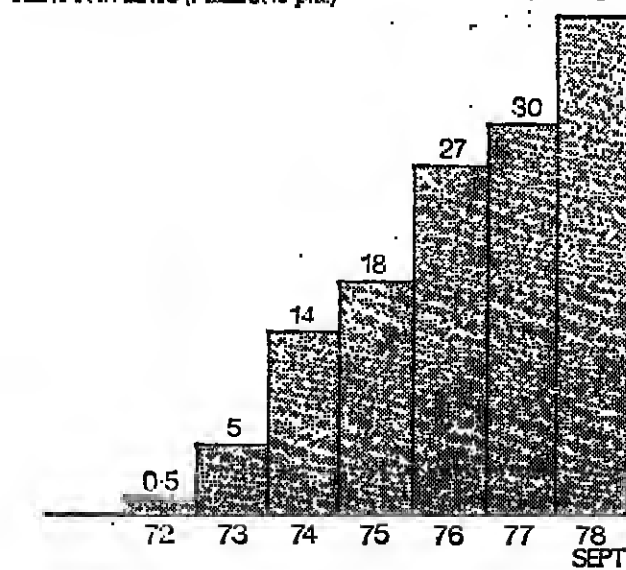


Our services are now used by eight of the top ten and thirty of the top fifty organisations.

MORE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES USE GIROBANK

An increasing number of Local Authorities and Public Utilities are using a wide range of our banking facilities, particularly our successful rent collection service for local authorities.

RENT PAYMENTS (MILLIONS p.a.)



This service is safe, more convenient and provides operational advantages to the local authorities. Hence, National Girobank, through more than 20,000 post offices open long hours, 5 days a week and Saturday mornings, now handles over 40 million rent payments a year on behalf of more than 150 local authorities.

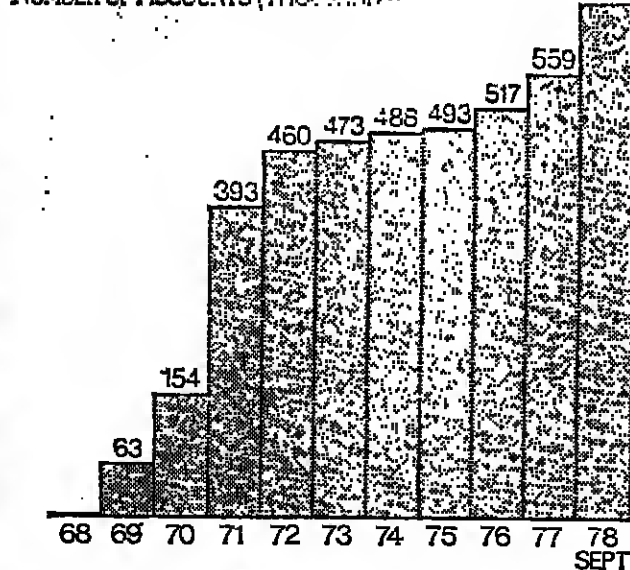
"The introduction of Giro as a method of rent collection has been an integral part of the housing management reorganisation in Manchester. I cannot speak too highly of the dedication and determination of the Giro staff in providing us with a 100% successful service week in week out." (Graham Goodhead, Director of Housing, City of Manchester).

CONTINUED EXPANSION OF PERSONAL SERVICES

National Girobank provides a free and convenient way for the payment of most regular household bills such as Gas, Electricity, Telephone and many others.

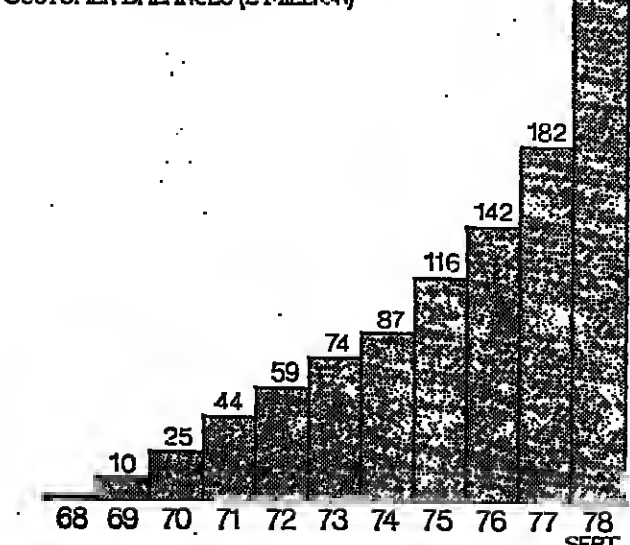
We continue to improve and expand our range of services for the personal customer, and these now include Deposit Accounts, Budget Accounts, Personal Loans and Bridging Loans. More and more individuals are using National Girobank's convenient banking services.

NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS (THOUSANDS)



Customer balances have increased steadily over the last 10 years to £300 million. National Girobank now handles over 250 million transactions a year.

CUSTOMER BALANCES (£ MILLION)

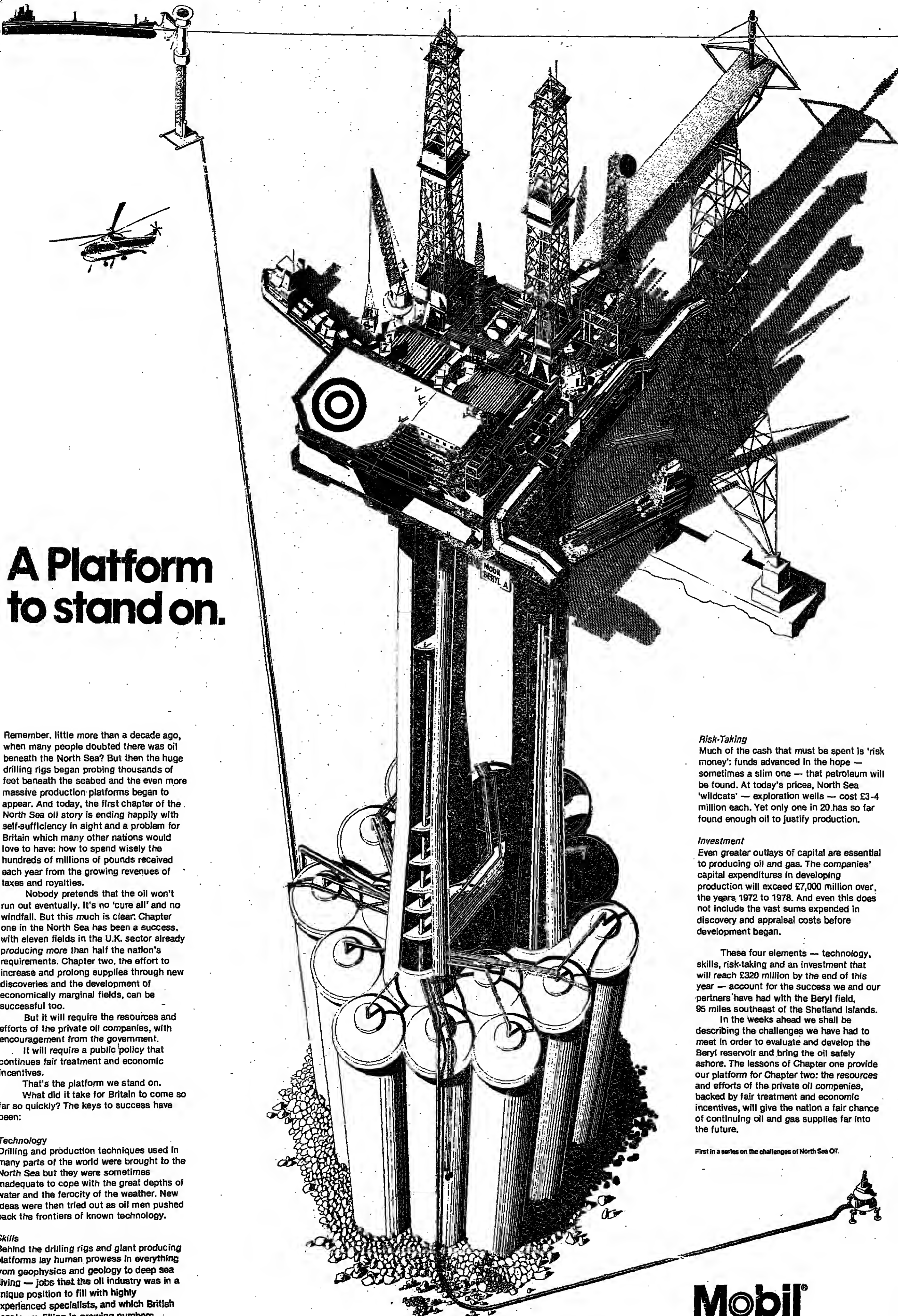


In 10 years, National Girobank has developed a wide range of highly competitive services. From the strong base which has been established we look to the future with confidence.

Find out more about National Girobank Write to the Public Relations Manager, National Girobank, 10 Milk Street, London EC2V 3JH (01-600 6020) or Bootle, Merseyside GIR 0AA (051-928 8181).

NATIONAL
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A Platform to stand on.

Remember, little more than a decade ago, when many people doubted there was oil beneath the North Sea? But then the huge drilling rigs began probing thousands of feet beneath the seabed and the even more massive production platforms began to appear. And today, the first chapter of the North Sea oil story is ending happily with self-sufficiency in sight and a problem for Britain which many other nations would love to have: how to spend wisely the hundreds of millions of pounds received each year from the growing revenues of taxes and royalties.

Nobody pretends that the oil won't run out eventually. It's no 'cure all' and no windfall. But this much is clear: Chapter one in the North Sea has been a success, with eleven fields in the U.K. sector already producing more than half the nation's requirements. Chapter two, the effort to increase and prolong supplies through new discoveries and the development of economically marginal fields, can be successful too.

But it will require the resources and efforts of the private oil companies, with encouragement from the government.

It will require a public policy that continues fair treatment and economic incentives.

That's the platform we stand on.

What did it take for Britain to come so far so quickly? The keys to success have been:

Technology

Drilling and production techniques used in many parts of the world were brought to the North Sea but they were sometimes inadequate to cope with the great depths of water and the ferocity of the weather. New ideas were then tried out as oil men pushed back the frontiers of known technology.

Skills

Behind the drilling rigs and giant producing platforms lay human prowess in everything from geophysics and geology to deep sea diving — jobs that the oil industry was in a unique position to fill with highly experienced specialists, and which British people are filling in growing numbers.

Risk-Taking

Much of the cash that must be spent is 'risk money': funds advanced in the hope — sometimes a slim one — that petroleum will be found. At today's prices, North Sea 'wildcats' — exploration wells — cost £3-4 million each. Yet only one in 20 has so far found enough oil to justify production.

Investment

Even greater outlays of capital are essential to producing oil and gas. The companies' capital expenditures in developing production will exceed £7,000 million over the years 1972 to 1978. And even this does not include the vast sums expended in discovery and appraisal costs before development began.

These four elements — technology, skills, risk-taking and an investment that will reach £320 million by the end of this year — account for the success we and our partners have had with the Beryl field, 95 miles southeast of the Shetland Islands.

In the weeks ahead we shall be describing the challenges we have had to meet in order to evaluate and develop the Beryl reservoir and bring the oil safely ashore. The lessons of Chapter one provide our platform for Chapter two: the resources and efforts of the private oil companies, backed by fair treatment and economic incentives, will give the nation a fair chance of continuing oil and gas supplies far into the future.

First in a series on the challenges of North Sea Oil.

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HOME NEWS

Careful grooming will give civil servants new television image

By Peter Hennessy

Carefully selected senior civil servants will be groomed to perform successfully on television as part of a drive to improve the image of the Civil Service.

The idea has been put forward by an interdepartmental committee chaired by Mr Michael Power, an under-secretary at the Civil Service Department, which monitors Whitehall public relations. A new edition of a pamphlet describing what civil servants should or should not do when appearing before the cameras will shortly be issued for internal circulation.

The Civil Service Department has authorised spending about £4,000 on training 24 civil servants for television work. Neither the Civil Service College nor the Central Office of Information has been deemed suitable for furnishing those skills, and outside organizations are being sought.

Training in communicating in other media will also be given on the courses. Most of the men chosen to "front" for Whitehall in describing the work of departments will be assistant secretaries or below.

There is no question that they will be allowed to stray into policy matters, which are regarded as the exclusive preserve of ministers. Nor is there any prospect of reviving a plan to prepare permanent secretaries for public appearances with courses at the Central Office of Information.

originally drawn up by Lord Armstrong of Sandstead when Head of the Home Civil Service, to the horror of most of his colleagues.

Most probably much of the training will be in how to shatter out of leading questions designed to trap the unwary.

An important aspect of the work of Mr Power's team has been to predict events over six months that might affect the public image of the Civil Service.

High on the list is possible industrial action over pay when the findings of the Pay Research Unit is published next month giving comparisons with the private sector for negotiation purposes. The list will shortly be circulated internally.

The team has also commissioned a leaflet about the Civil Service. But a plan to sponsor a book about the work of permanent secretaries has been stopped temporarily as many civil servants believe a hagiography of top men could be counterproductive and lead to parody in the press.

Mr Power's group recently took stock of the first six months of its operation, which was secret until disclosed in *The Times* on August 31. The conclusion reached was that on balance publicity had been helpful, as it had given ordinary civil servants the impression that at long last their superiors were doing something about unjustified attacks on their pay and conditions and performance at work.

'Priceless' hospital murals to be restored

The tiled murals in the old Charing Cross Hospital, off the Strand, in London, are being removed, restored, and recognized as important examples of a vanished popular art form (Philip Howard writes).

The 17 hand-painted tiled murals of country scenes and the tile frieze of a medieval hunting scene have been curiosities of the hospital for a century. Mr Tony Herbert, of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Telford, Salop, who is doing the restoration, said yesterday: "They are some of the best examples of a craft that has died. They are priceless."

They were made at the Maurs tile factory at Jackfield, near Ironbridge, the world's biggest tile factory a century ago. Its tiles, many painted by distinguished designers, brightened the world from Mysore Palace to Toronto University.

The art form died during the 1914-18 War. Until then Jackfield tiles ornamented buildings from churches to public houses and butcher's shops.

A job creation team is to investigate the secrets of their manufacture. Six restored murals will be reerected at the new Charing Cross Hospital in Fulham. The rest will have pride of place in the planned national tile museum.



Mr Tony Herbert working on one of the murals.

'Widespread racial prejudice in jobs'

By Anabel Ferriman

All companies should record the ethnic origins of job applicants to ensure that they are not discriminating against minority groups, the Institute of Personnel Management recommends in a report published yesterday.

The institute, which has 19,000 members, says that although it is 10 years since the first Act prohibiting job discrimination was passed, evidence of discrimination against certain racial groups in obtaining jobs and promotion is widespread. Similar disadvantages affect women, particularly in managerial opportunities, it says.

The report sets out a code of good practice and warns companies that careless advertising, interviewing procedures and selection policies could lay them open to accusations of indirect discrimination.

Inflected academic qualifications were demanded, making it harder for members of certain racial groups to apply, because their academic qualifications were on average lower than whites, a company could be accused of indirect discrimination. If the high qualifications were necessary, however, that would be justified.

It recommends that all interviewers should be trained, in order to reduce the effect of unconscious bias and stereotypical perceptions in selecting people. Departmental managers, in particular, should be trained in interviewing, because they often made the final decision.

It was not enough for a company to declare itself an equal opportunity employer without explaining the policy to the workers and securing their understanding. The cooperation of departmental managers and trade union representatives should be secured, it says.

General Seear, president of the institute and a member of the steering committee which produced the report, said yesterday that many companies' selection and promotion policies were extremely muddled. It was hard to draft a fair and standard set of questions which would not discriminate against minorities who existing practices would not stand scrutiny.

Towards Fairer Selection: a code for non-discrimination (Institute of Personnel Management, Central House Upper Portland Place, London, WC1H 0EX).

Risk of nuclear war is dismissed by President Giscard

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Oct 17

President Giscard d'Estaing of France said last night that he did not believe in the risk of an outbreak of nuclear war between now and the end of the century. He was being interviewed by M Jean-Louis Servan-Schreiber on the television programme *Questionnaire*, about the place of France in a world in transition.

He attempted, with his acknowledged talent for explication and foresight, to persuade Frenchmen to lift their gaze from immediate problems and take solace from the fact that in about a decade France had joined the leading platoon of nations, alongside the United States, Russia, West Germany and Japan.

This naturally failed to satisfy the opposition, which already condemned his visit here during his last press conference at the Elysée Palace in June that the country must prepare to face the problems of the third millennium, as merely a pretext for eluding those of today.

M Roland Leroy, the Editor-in-Chief of *L'Humanité*, the communist newspaper, writes today of the "cold, inhuman, and cruel technocracy" of the President.

The fate he proposes to France is that of a German Europe, under American rule. The France devoted to a process of continual adaptation of which the President spoke repeatedly yesterday would be a country diminished, weakened, mutilated, and subjected.

This is a deliberate misreading of the President's words. In the year 2000 France would total only 1 per cent of the world population. But its power and influence was infinitely greater than this percentage indicated. It was already the world's third nuclear power, ahead of Britain, it had the third highest standard of living; and it was the fifth greatest economic power.

France had overtaken Britain as far back as 1967 in terms of gross national product. "If we do what is necessary, we can become a standard of living on a par with West Germany in about 10 years", he emphasized.

"If I often compare France with Germany, it is because I do not think it would be good for Europe to be dominated by one great economic power."

Orchestra's rise halted after cellist wins case

A pay rise for members of the Northern Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra is to be delayed as part of an economy drive.

The savings are necessary mainly because of compensation that has to be paid to the former principal cellist, Mr Alan Turner, who was dismissed earlier this year.

Mr Turner, aged 33, later won an action for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal and was given an undisclosed sum. The tribunal was told that he was dismissed because he pulled fares and deliberately played wrong notes at rehearsals.

The orchestra estimates that it needs about £10,500 to cover compensation and legal costs. A vacancy will be left unfilled, fewer soloists will be employed and administrative costs reduced.

Call for talks at all levels on juvenile crime

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, called yesterday for discussions at every level on the best way to handle the growing number of persistent juvenile offenders.

He told a meeting of Cambridge University Fabians that a code of practice drawn up by magistrates and local authority representatives suggested that such young people should generally be removed from home when placed in care. Social services departments should not return them home merely because adequate facilities were not available locally, the code had said.

"The Secretary for Social Services and I are anxious that the publication of the code should be followed up with discussions and efforts at every level", Mr Rees said.

Fear of hardship over payment of water rates

By Robin Youns Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The National Water Council's draft code of practice on direct billing for domestic water charges provides inadequate protection for people meeting real hardship in paying their water bills, the National Consumer Council says.

In a letter to Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, made public today, the council says it is wrong to leave water authorities to decide for themselves whether a customer intends to pay, or whether to disconnect the supply. It says the matter could properly be established only in court, and goes on to question whether disconnection is an appropriate sanction.

The council says that serious public health consequences

"which could render houses unfit for human habitation in Public Health Act terms" have been disregarded. It points out that the Thames Water Authority has already started disconnections for non-payment although it has yet to publish the code of practice that it intends to follow.

With the introduction of direct billing, customers in many areas have lost the option to pay water rates by monthly instalments. The council says that might contribute to serious arrears.

The council argues that the consumers' interest is not being adequately represented. It says consumer representatives should be appointed to at least a third of the places on all water authorities, and calls for the creation of a national water consumers' council to monitor the industry's performance.

Sergeant risked life to rescue drowning youth

Police Sergeant Paul Chapman was congratulated by Thames magistrates yesterday for having risked his life by diving into the Thames to rescue a young man who had threatened him with a broken bottle.

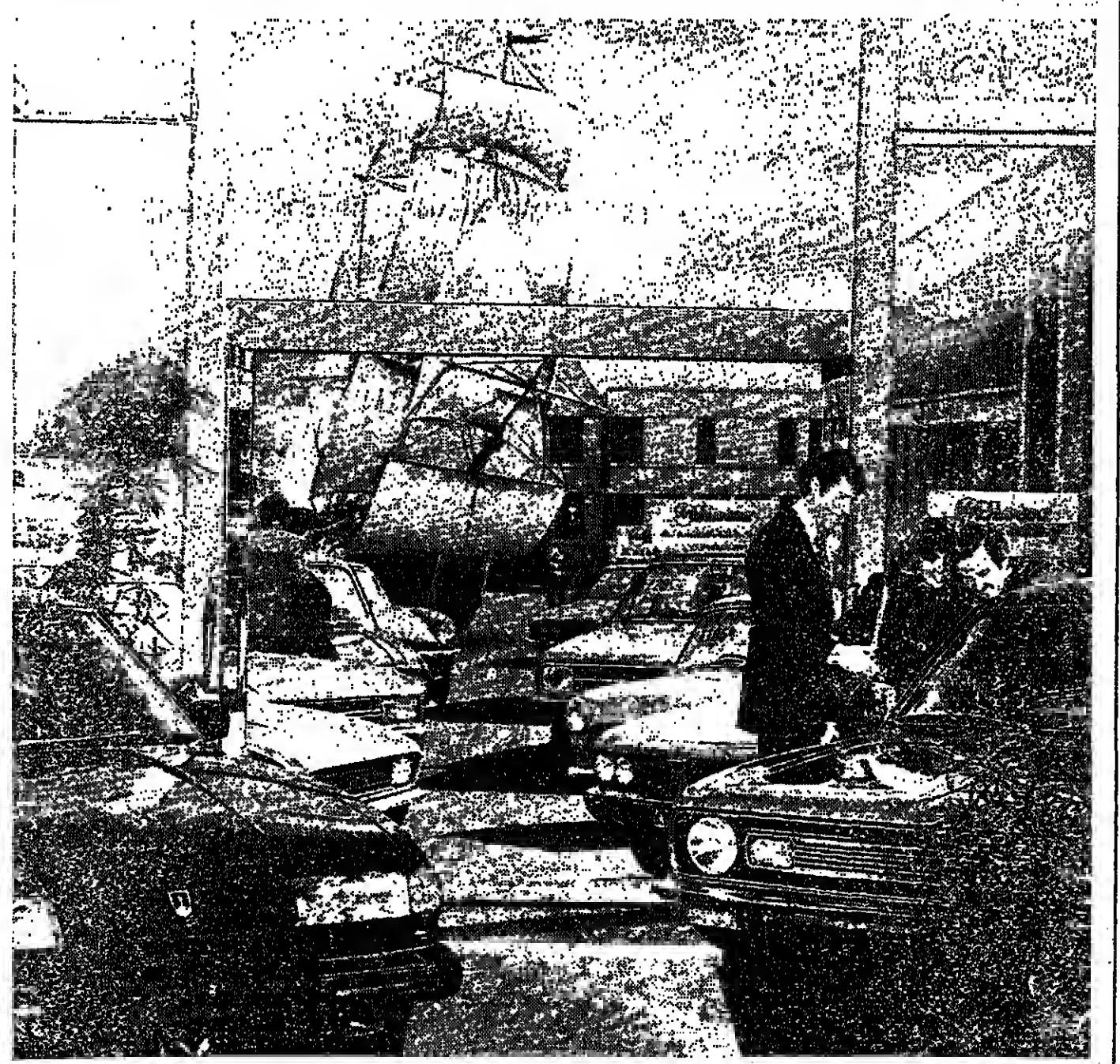
Sergeant Chapman told the court that Paul Dummell, aged 17, of The Jamie barge, St Katharine's Dock, east London, was unconscious when pulled from the water. He thumped his chest to revive him three times.

Dummell, who confronted Sergeant Chapman and two colleagues on a pontoon and then leapt 15ft into the water below, admitted possessing a broken bottle as an offensive weapon. He was remanded until November 14 for reports.

He said later: "I am very, very grateful indeed to the officers for saving my life."

Women join brigade

Women are being recruited by Cambridgeshire fire brigade to fill part-time vacancies caused by lack of male volunteers in rural areas.



Girls lose appeal in race bias action

Two West Indian girls who alleged race bias by the head of a computer company failed yesterday in an attempt to reopen their complaint of discrimination.

Mr Eugene Levine, head of EML business machines (now in liquidation) was alleged to have said that coloured girls could not answer a simple percentage question. The sum that Mr Levine set for girls was: "What is 3 per cent of £100?"

The Employment Appeal Tribunal in London was told yesterday that when asked by a careers officer why he wanted to know if a girl being sent to

him was coloured, Mr Levine replied that all the coloured girls he had seen so far could not answer the simple question.

Mr Levine had told the officer: "Surely there must be some of our own girls who are out of work; there are thousands out of work."

An industrial tribunal in Leeds last January dismissed contentions by Miss Una Dawkins, aged 18, of Hilton Place, and Miss Sheila Sewell, aged 19, of Soblebrook Place, both of Leeds, that they were victims of unlawful race discrimination. The tribunal yesterday rejected appeals by the girls against that decision.

Jail for clerk who made food 'disappear'

A former City clerk who found he could make small quantities of vast food shipments "disappear" was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to nine months' imprisonment after admitting five charges of theft.

The food disappeared because Peter Parnment, aged 30, now a minicab driver of Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, found buyers through his contacts with other City workers who were only too willing to pay less than the market price for the food.

The thefts over a period of several months had cost the company he worked for, Tradeax Ltd, grain merchants, £20,000.

BBC extends TV current affairs coverage

By Kenneth Gosling

New weekend programmes about current affairs were announced by BBC Television yesterday. The programmes, to be shown on BBC2, have been developed from *Newsday*, which ran for four years.

They will be shown in the evening and the aim, according to Mr David Whithrow, their new general editor, will be to provide insight into important issues facing Britain and the world, and feature people who make policies.

Assignment, on Sundays, has already begun and there will be three others: *Newsweek*, on Thursdays, beginning on November 2, *Westminster*, presented on Fridays from November 3 by David Holmes, the BBC's political editor, and *On the Record*, a 30-minute news conference on Saturdays from November 4 with Michael Charlton as the regular host and guest interviewers.

Mrs Indira Gandhi has accepted an invitation to appear on this programme, and Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, is interested.

Vital documents for speedway case missing

From Our Correspondent Bristol

Vital documents to be used as evidence in Bristol council's move to ban speedway racing have disappeared from the headquarters of the environmental health department.

The charts are believed to show the levels of noise and fumes recorded in tests by experts near Eastville stadium over the past two years. They would have provided the bulk of documentary evidence for Bristol City Council early next year when it seeks a High Court injunction to ban speed-

way on the grounds of excessive noise and fumes.

The city council said: "The chief environmental health officer confirmed that some noise-monitoring charts relating to speedway are missing from his department. That does not affect the advice given by officers to members at the special public protection committee."

Mr James Crie, secretary of the speedway supporters' association, said: "This is the first I have heard of such a theft. I cannot imagine anyone being so foolish about the future of speedway that they would so far as this."

Paris police and fire service costs controversy settled

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Oct 17

The six-month truce between the Government and the Gaullist party has also produced improved relations between the Minister of the Interior and the Paris municipality, which is led by M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader. The long controversy about Paris police and fire brigade costs has been settled, it is learnt at the Hotel de Ville.

Other problems, such as the cost of Paris transport, special benefits for the needy, pensions, and receipts from the state-run lotto have been put aside temporarily.

The agreement shows a mutual desire to end the undeclared warfare between the Government, or rather the presidency, and the city which began in 1977, when M Chirac won the mayoralty against the candidature of M Michel d'Ornano, the Minister for Industry, and a personal friend of Mr Giscard d'Estaing.

The new Statute of Paris, which gave the city an elected mayor and independence from state tutelage, left some difficult financial problems unsolved, including the cost of the Paris police.

M Chirac refused, with the backing of the whole council, to foot the bill of 232m francs (£35m) served by the state on the city for the Paris police in 1978. He said that it would mean a 6 per cent increase in

rates beyond the 10 per cent already decided by the city fathers. At the end of last year, the Paris Council voted 150m francs for the upkeep of the police. M Chirac said that each Parisian paid 140 times more than people in Lyons or Marseilles where the police is state supplied.

The Minister of the Interior exercised his right to order the state budget for this year. He indicated that a redistribution of police costs would only be possible in 1979, when a joint committee of the city and the state, chaired by the prefect of the Paris region, had published its findings.

This committee has now produced a compromise agreement to both sides. The bill for the Paris police will be reduced this year by 164m francs (from 315m francs to 151m francs), which is about what the council originally voted in its budget. At the same time, the city will pay 164m francs more for the cost of the fire brigade and its contribution to the salaries of 35,000 employees, of which most was hitherto shouldered by the state.

It looks like a clever piece of juggling with figures to save face on both sides. But in 1980 when the new law statute will be extended to Paris police costs and these are reduced to 20m francs, the city will be the net beneficiary.

Dutch send third alleged terrorist to W Germany

From Our Correspondent Amsterdam, Oct 17

Knut Folkerts, the most prominent of the three alleged members of the West German Red Army Group terrorist organization to have been held in Dutch prisons, was extradited to West Germany today. Christof Wackernagel and Gert Schneider were handed over last Friday.

Herr Folkerts, aged 26, was taken to West Germany by helicopter from the maximum security prison at Maastricht, where he was brought on Friday from Scheveningen to attend a hearing by the Council of State, the highest administrative court in the Netherlands.

According to a communiqué issued by the Dutch Ministry of Justice Herr Folkerts has been temporarily put at the disposal of West Germany to stand trial there. This means he has been handed over on the understanding that he will be allowed to return to Holland on November 7 when the Dutch Supreme Court hears his appeal against an additional West German request for his extradition.

This additional request, made in June, charged Herr Folkerts with being a party to an attack on a court building in Karlsruhe and was necessary in order to be able to prosecute him on this point.

In May of this year the Dutch Supreme Court decided that Herr Folkerts' extradition was admissible, although not with respect to his alleged role in the kidnapping of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the murdered West German industrialist. According to the court this act could be considered to be of a political nature as defined by the European Convention on Terrorism.

Herr Folkerts was extradited today for "the same reasons" that Herr Schneider and Herr Wackernagel were extradited on Friday. They were immediately banded over to West Germany after they had refused two months' Herr Folkerts, who learnt of his comrades' action after arriving in Maastricht, followed their example on Saturday.

He is wanted in West Germany as an alleged member of an illegal organization and on suspicion of having been a party to the murder of Dr Siegfried Buback, the chief public prosecutor. He is also suspected of having taken part with others in the abduction of Dr Schleyer and of the attack in Karlsruhe.

In December of last year Herr Folkerts was sentenced by a court in Utrecht to 20 years' imprisonment for the murder of a policeman and the attempted murder of another while resisting arrest.

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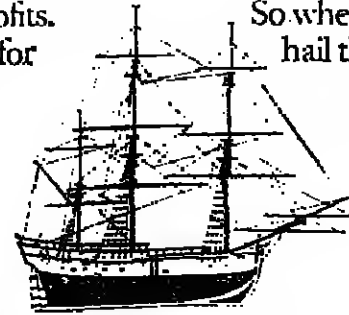
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THE NEW POPE

John Paul II outlines his aim of achieving communion with all Christians

me, Oct 17.—Following is the full text of the first message of Pope John Paul II to the church and to the world (official Vatican translation), issued by Reuters.

...and, sons and daughters of the Holy Church, all of you who have listened to one word, among so many, comes immediately to our mind. We are here, in this moment, to begin a new journey. We are here to begin a new journey of faith, of hope, of love, of communion with all Christians.

And who does not recall the insistence of St Paul on the "communion of the spirit", which leads one to the united love with a common purpose and a common mind in the imitation of Christ the Lord? It does not seem possible that there would still remain the drama of the division among Christians—a cause of confusion and perhaps even of scandal.

We intend, therefore, to proceed along the way already begun, by favouring those steps which serve to remove obstacles. Hopefully, then, thanks to a common effort, we might arrive finally at full communion.

We desire, furthermore, to turn to all men who, as sons of the omnipotent God, are our brothers in love and service. We say to them without presumption, but with sincere humility, that we desire to make an effective contribution to the cause of permanent and prevailing peace, of development, of international justice. We have no intention of political interference, nor of participation in the working out of temporal affairs.

Just as the Church excludes being contained within the category of earthly order, so our responsibility in approaching these burning questions of men and of nations shall be determined only by religious and moral motivation. Follow him who said to his followers that the ideal of his life is to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world". We intend to work for the consolidation of spiritual supports on which human society can build.

This duty seems more urgent for us now in the light of the on-going inequalities and misunderstandings, which in turn are the cause of tensions and conflicts in many parts of the world. They bear within themselves the further threat of added inhuman catastrophes. Constant, therefore, shall be our concern, faced with such problems. Inspired by the Gospel, we will seek timely, unprejudiced action.

It is good to take to heart at this moment the grave problem addressed during the sede vacante—that regarding the beloved land of Lebanon and its people who earnestly desire peace and liberty.

At the same time we would like to reach out our hands and open our hearts in this moment, to all people and to those who are oppressed by whatever injustices or discrimination. We must reach out with all means to them, that all forms of injustice manifest in our times be rejected by public opinion. May they be remedied, so that all might live a life worthy of man. That which is part of the mission of the Church as seen in the Second Vatican Council, and not only in the dogmatic constitution, *Lumen Gentium* but, also in the pastoral constitution, *Gaudium Spes*, has been brought to light.

Brothers, dear sons and daughters, the recent happenings of the Church and of the world are for us all a healthy warning: how will our pontificate be? What is the destiny the Lord has assigned to the Church in the years to come? What road will humanity take, as it approaches the year 2000? These are burning questions. The only answer is: "God knows".

Our personal fate which has brought us unexpectedly to the heaviest responsibility of apostolic service is of little significance. Our person—we ought to say—must be lost as we confront the weighty office we must fill. And so a speech must be changed into an appeal. After praying to the Lord, we feel it necessary to beg your prayers to gain that indispensable, higher strength that will make it possible for us to take up the work of our predecessors from the point where they left off.

Behind them, we acknowledge the order of the priesthood, the bank of missionaries, the companies of religious men and women. At the same time we earnestly hope that their numbers will grow, echoing in our mind those words of the Saviour: "The harvest is great, the labourers are few".

Then we turn again to the families and to Christian communities, to the many associations of the apostolate, to the faithful who even if they are not known individually to us, are not anonymous, not strangers, not marginal—never—they will be in the glorious company of the Church of Christ.

Satisfaction expressed by Polish leadership

Warsaw, Oct 17.—Poland's communist leadership said today that the election of Pope John Paul II had caused "great satisfaction" in Poland, and expressed the hope that relations between the country and the Holy See would continue to develop.

Mr Edward Gierk, the party leader, Mr Henryk Jablonski, the head of state and Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Prime Minister, sent a message of congratulation to the Pope.

It said: "This significant decision by the conclave of cardinals has caused great satisfaction in Poland. On the papal throne—for the first time in history—a son of the Polish nation is sitting."

"A nation warmly promoting cooperation and friendship between all peoples, a nation which has visibly contributed to the development of human culture."

"We are convinced that the further development of relations between the Polish People's Republic and the Holy See will continue to serve those important tasks."

The Polish press struck a carefully optimistic note, expressing the hope that John Paul II would pursue the same policies of détente as his predecessors.

Zycie Warszawy printed on its front page a picture of the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla and said that his election was received with "obvious interest".

This was true not only for the Catholic Church and its adherents but for all public opinion, it said. "The newly elected Pope assumed the name John Paul II. To this fact the world is pinning hope that the cause of peace and peaceful cooperation between nations will continue also during this pontificate."

The Communist Party organ, *Trybuna Ludu* published on its front page a report from Rome by Polish news agency PAP and a brief statement by a government spokesman, but refrained from comment.

The whole front page of the left-wing Catholic newspaper *Slowo Powszechne* contained detailed editorial reports and pictures of the Pope addressing the crowd in St Peter's Square, with Cardinal Wyszynski, the Polish Primate, at his side.

The newspaper also reported a solemn thanksgiving Mass, celebrated last night in Cracow, the Pope's former see. Prayers were said in the church of his birthplace at Wadowice.—Reuters.

Prague: All Czechoslovak newspapers carried brief reports of the papal election.

The Communist Party newspaper *Rude Pravo* printed the news in two paragraphs on its inside foreign page, while the other Prague newspapers, carried it on their front pages.

The Vicar-General of Prague, Mr Frantisek Vaneek, said: "I would think the dialogue between Church and state will continue with greater intensity, but we shall have to wait and see."

Disclaiming a right to speak on behalf of the Protestant Church in Czechoslovakia, a pastor said: "I suppose the election is an expression of the recognition for the fight of the Polish Church. It is likely to have an influence on entire Church policy"—Reuters and AP.



The Pope at prayer in the Sistine Chapel.

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The Queen's wishes for a successful pontificate

The Queen and Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, yesterday sent messages of good will to Pope John Paul II.

The Queen said: "I send to Your Holiness my warmest congratulations on your assumption to the high office to which you have been called and my best wishes for a happy and successful pontificate."

Mr Callaghan said: "I offer to Your Holiness on the assumption of your high office my greetings and my very best wishes for the success of your pontificate."

Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton, Pavilion, addressing a Carlton Club political committee in London last night congratulated the cardinals on their decision.

"They have understood the weakness of the Church in the West and its tendency to try to appease its foes. They have rejected the public relations gimmick of a 'third world' Pope."

"Instead, they have chosen a man who has been a field commander in just about the most exposed front-line trench of what remains of Christendom."

Briton wins Nobel chemistry prize for his research into energy systems of living cells

From Roger Chuate
Stockholm, Oct 17

Dr Peter Mitchell of Glynn Research Laboratories in Bodmin, Cornwall, was awarded the 1978 Nobel Prize for Chemistry today by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The award is for seminal research into chemical processes responsible for the energy supply of living cells.

The Academy praised Dr Mitchell for his contribution to a deeper understanding of biological energy transfer—and, in particular, the formulation of the "chemiosmotic theory" of how protons are driven across the membranes of particular cells in green plants.

Dr Mitchell, aged 58, has been Glynn research director since 1964. He will receive the \$84,000 (£42,000) award from King Carl XVI Gustaf on December 10, in Stockholm.

He developed the chemiosmotic theory in 1961 while working in the Department of Zoology at Edinburgh University and it was initially viewed with scepticism by the scientific community.

"But over the past 15 years, work in both Mitchell's and many other laboratories has shown that the basic postulates of his theory are correct," the Swedish Academy said.

The Nobel prize for physics, also announced today, was jointly awarded to two Americans and a Russian.

Professor Leonid Klapatsky, of the Institute of Physical Problems at the Academy of Sciences in Moscow, was praised for his basic



Dr Mitchell: at first his theory attracted scepticism

inventions and discoveries integral to "low temperature physics" which involves the properties of materials at temperatures immediately above absolute zero.

The Americans, Dr Arno Penzias and Dr Robert Wilson of Bell Telephone Laboratories, New Jersey, received the award for their discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation.

Various astronomical objects emit radiation in the form of radio waves and the two researchers' measurements of this form of radiation led to the surprising conclusion that the universe is still filled uniformly with microwave radiation.

Their research would tend to support the "big bang" theory



Professor Kapitsa: expert in low temperature physics

about the origin of the universe by making it possible to obtain information about cosmic processes which took place "a very long time ago, at the time of the creation of the universe".

In giving the chemistry prize to Dr Mitchell, the Academy underlined that important details about molecular mechanisms are still unclear. But his chemiosmotic theory, as a fundamental principle in bioenergetics, provides a rational basis for future work in describing the detailed mechanisms of oxidative phosphorylation and photophosphorylation.

Born in Micham, Surrey, Dr Mitchell received his doctorate in biochemistry from Cambridge University in 1950. He was demonstrator at the university's

Department of Biochemistry until 1955, when he was appointed director of the Chemical Biology Unit at Edinburgh.

Nature-Times News Service writes: Dr Mitchell's chemiosmotic theory explains how cells convert food into metabolic energy. This is done in microscopically small bodies in the cells known as mitochondria, in which the energy rich compound ATP—

which acts as a universal source of metabolic energy—is produced during respiration.

The essential chemical reaction is the oxidation of the compound ADP to ATP, locking energy into the extra chemical bond. The vital link in this reaction turns out to be the double mitochondrial membrane.

This is the stage for the transfer of electrons along a chain of proteins attached to the mitochondrial membrane.

Mitchell's theory proposes that at the same time protons are expelled from the outer surface of the inner membrane and are transmitted through the outer membrane by osmosis.

Thus an ion concentration of protons charged gradient is set up across the membrane and it is via this potential gradient that the chemical energy is stored and used to form ATP.

The chemical reaction equilibrium is produced by the phosphorylation of an ADP to a TP depends very sensitively on ion concentration, controlled by the membrane.

Professor Kapitsa, aged 84, began research in nuclear physics at Cambridge under Rutherford (of whom he was a close friend)

Britain likely to be charged over fishery conservation

From Michael Horvath
Luxembourg, Oct 17

The European Commission is expected to decide tomorrow to prosecute Britain before the European Court of Justice for at least four of the fish conservation measures introduced unilaterally in recent months.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, is understood to be satisfied that the Commission has a legal case, and he will ask his 12 fellow commissioners for their agreement at their weekly meeting in Brussels tomorrow.

Among the measures for which Britain is likely to be prosecuted are the closure of the Mourne herring fishery and the extension of the area covered by the fishing ban for Norway pout off North-East Scotland.

The commission believes the Mourne ban discriminates against other member states, and is therefore illegal.

The extension of the pout ban, in the commission's view, is not justified by the scientific evidence. Britain argues that the ban is needed to protect stocks of immature haddock and whiting which would otherwise be scooped-up in the small-mesh nets used for catching pout.

The commission is also expected to take legal action against what it considers to be the premature British imposition of a minimum 70mm net mesh size for prawn and shrimp fishing, and against an allegedly discriminatory ban on herring fishing off the Isle of Man.

Under EEC rules, member

states may introduce fish conservation measures nationally if attempts to get agreement at the community level have failed. But any such measures must be clearly non-discriminatory and scientifically necessary.

Britain has long been at loggerheads with the rest of the EEC over fisheries policy. EEC foreign ministers were due later today to discuss Britain's refusal to approve framework fishing agreements with Norway, Sweden and the Faroes so long as the Community's internal fishing policy remains unresolved.

If the courts were to rule against Britain, the Government would have to abolish the fisheries measures complained of.

Our Agriculture Correspondent writes: Britain refused yesterday to dismantle its latest national measures to conserve fish stocks. It was claimed in Whitehall that the announcement of the decision immediately before a meeting between British and West German heads of government was coincidence. Fishing has been put on the agenda at the request of the German government, and Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will attend the meeting.

Mr Silkin is regarded in many European capitals and in the EEC Commission as the chief obstacle to reaching a fisheries agreement. Yesterday his officials released the text of the Government's reply to a list of complaints and appeals sent to London in September by Mr Gundelach.

Letters, page 22

Spanish police mutineers to be dismissed from force

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Oct 17

The Spanish Interior Ministry has begun administrative action to dismiss 25 policemen, including a second lieutenant and three corporals for their part in the mutiny last weekend at the main Bilbao headquarters of the security police, it was reported here today.

The 25 are now under arrest at a military prison in Burgos, pending approval by the commander of the Sixth Military District, which includes Bilbao, of the proposed extreme disciplinary measures.

Senior officers of the 25 have recommended that 13 of them be drummed-out of the corps "because they stood out among the rabble-rousers" during the incidents at the police station, and the other 12 he dismissed for dereliction of duty, according to the Madrid daily El Sol.

Informal sources here say that six others might be punished, and that there is still a possibility that some policemen might be court-martialed, since in Spain the police forces come under military jurisdiction and their officers actually come from the armed forces.

In addition, the transfer of over 400 members of the security police forces from Bilbao to other parts of Spain has begun. All of those affected by transfer orders are married, have served more than one year in the troubled Basque country, and, presumably, took part in the mutiny.

So far the Interior Ministry has not announced any disciplinary action against them. The

transfer is an administrative affair rather than a punishment, since it presages new policies of rotation and restricted authorization for dependents to reside with policemen assigned to duty in the north of the country.

The transfer also solves a thorny problem for the Government by getting the angry police wives, who took part in the incident last weekend and in previous riotous demonstrations, out of the area.

Those transferred to other provinces will suffer pay cuts ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 pesetas a month (£73 to £145), the "danger pay" currently awarded for security policemen serving in the Basque country.

An atmosphere of tension persists at some security police and Civil Guard stations in various parts of the country, particularly in the Basque provinces. There is a distinct possibility that anti-Government incidents might occur at other police garrisons, according to reports reaching here.

The Madrid evening newspaper *Informaciones* quoted persons close to the police as stating that policemen will be extremely sensitive to the disciplinary measures which are applied in the case of the Bilbao mutineers.

It is also believed, according to Basque sources, that another ETA assassination of policemen would set off incidents among the forces whose mission it is to keep the peace.

In Madrid, there was no official indication of measures being taken to head-off any repetition of the Bilbao mutiny.



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£13,000 salary 'too large' for European MPs

From Our Own Correspondent
Luxembourg, Oct 17

Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in Luxembourg today that a salary of £13,000 for British members of the first directly elected European parliament would be much too large.

It is roughly the figure proposed by leaders of the political groups represented in the parliament, whose members are at present nominated indirectly. The salaries proposed for other nationalities range up to more than £22,000 for the Germans and Danes.

"Why should a man representing Hampshire in the European parliament be paid twice as much as a man from Portsmouth representing his constituency at Westminster?" Mr Judd asked.

It was absolutely vital, Mr Judd said, that European parliamentary salaries were appropriate for social conditions in the countries the MPs came from. It was also essential that they should be subject to the same tax laws as their electors.

British airliner and MiG 'in near collision'

By Our Air Correspondent

The joint military power in Berlin, consisting of representatives of Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, is to investigate reports that a British Airways airliner and a Russian fighter nearly collided in the corridor between Berlin and West Germany earlier this month.

The airliner was a BAC 1-11 operating flight BA780 with 97 passengers between London and Tegel airport, West Berlin, on October 5.

The Soviet fighter was a MiG, but an official at the Foreign Office in London said yesterday that the incident did not seem to have been an attempt at "buzzing" the airliner.

British Airways said yesterday that the incident appeared to be a "near miss".

Mr Trudeau suffers by-election defeat

From John Best
Ottawa, Oct 17

Mr Pierre Trudeau's Government suffered a stunning defeat at the polls yesterday when Liberal candidates won only two of 15 by-elections held across Canada.

The Conservatives, under their young leader, Mr Joe Clark, won an almost equally stunning victory, capturing 10 seats and a full 50 per cent of the popular vote. Two seats went to the New Democratic Party and one to the right-wing Social Credit Party.

The results represented a net gain of four for the Conservatives and one for the NDP. The Liberals lost five seats and the SCP retained the one seat it held before: Lotbinière in Quebec.

Mr Trudeau's Liberals failed to win a single seat outside French-speaking Quebec. In that province, Canada's second largest, they retained Montreal Westmount and picked up St Hyacinthe from the Conservatives.

Elsewhere the "multi-general election" produced nothing but woes for the Liberals, whose candidates in most constituencies did not even come close to the Prime Minister, who is now in the last year of his five-year mandate and is expected to call a general election next spring, told reporters that he did not think the vote was "close". There was no question, however, that the results reflected "an anti-government trend".

Asked whether he thought the outcome could force people in the Liberal Party to call for a review of his leadership, Mr Trudeau replied: "No—we'll have to wait and see. You win some and lose some."

Mr Clark saw the results as "an anti-Trudeau vote", and claimed that the Liberal Party had lost forever any chance of regaining seats outside Quebec.

It is time for a new team to take over the direction of the country," he said.

He acknowledged that the defeat of the Liberals outside Quebec, coupled with the Conservatives' failure to win a seat inside Quebec, indicated a "dangerous polarity" between English-speaking and French-speaking Canada. The Conservatives now have only two seats in Quebec.

Yesterday's voting produced a breakthrough for the socialist NDP, which for the first time won a seat in Canada's easternmost province, Newfoundland.

Mr Clark said the NDP's victory was a "significant" one, and that the party's success was a "challenge" to the Government.

It also held on to Toronto.

Leading article, page 17

No early recall for Rhodesia MPs on race laws

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Oct 17

The Rhodesian Parliament will not be recalled early to approve measures to end racial discrimination, Mr Hilary Sefton, Commissioner of Justice and leader of the House, announced today.

He said in an interview that necessary legislation was unlikely to be ready much before the end of November, when Parliament was due to sit in any case.

There had been demands for an early recall of Parliament from several quarters, including a black Cabinet Minister, in order to ratify the decision taken early last week by the Executive Council to scrap all race laws.

Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, called today for a "Camp David-style" conference to help end the crisis in his country. He said he would accept a State Department invitation to reshuffle the Rhodesian Government on Friday to discuss the holding of an all-party settlement conference.

But he added: "I was encouraged by the President's efforts to bring South Africa to a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. (If) the principles were applied to our situation, the problems would fall away and there would be no bar to a peaceful solution."

South Africa, the conservative Democratic Turnhalle

Arab states recommend cutting of Beirut Christians' aid from Israel

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Lebanon, Oct 17

Foreign ministers of the Arab states which contribute to the mainly-Syrian peacekeeping force in Lebanon ended their summit conference tonight with eight recommendations which would, if put into practice, effectively castrate the power of the country's Christian militias.

The seventh clause in the final communiqué, which is clearly aimed at the 12,000-strong force of Christian Maronites, which has been fighting the Syrian Army in Beirut over the past four months, demands an end to any dealing between Lebanese and "the Israeli enemy".

Since the Christian Phalangists and Mr Camille Chamoun's militiamen have been boasting of the military and political support which they receive from the Israelis, the conference communiqué amounts to a threat.

If the Christians do not comply, then the full strength of the Arab world may be used against them.

But the word "may" is important, for the conference delegates insisted that their final communiqué should be regarded as a series of recommendations and not resolutions. Quite clearly, they intend to allow the right-wing Christians time to reconsider their position.

If the conflict in east Beirut is rekindled in the coming days, then Syria and its Arab colleagues intend to demonstrate to the world that the Christians are responsible for it.

The eight proposals amount to a reiteration of the Riyadh and Cairo agreements of 1976 which were intended to pacify Lebanon after the nation's 18-month civil war. But the added proviso that no one should be permitted to "deal" with Israel is specifically aimed at the Christians. During the war it was Syria rather than Israel which saved the Christian community from extinction.

The recommendations, cut to their barest essentials, amount to the following:

1: the unity and independence of Lebanon should be strengthened.

2: "armed manifestations"—in other words armed gangs—should be "eliminated" and all illegally-held arms collected by the Lebanese Government.

3: the application of the Cairo and Riyadh agreements.

4: the banning of all newspapers and radio stations which are illegal and operate without a licence. (After the civil war the Lebanese Government was unable to stop the publication of newspapers which refused to submit to censorship.)

5: Christian radio also refuses to submit texts of its broadcasts to the Government, although claimed tonight that it was unaffected by the resolution.

6: a timetable for the rebuilding of the Lebanese army.

7: national reconciliation between all Lebanese parties.

8: application of the law which forbids Lebanese from dealing with the Israeli enemy.

9: the formation of a committee comprising Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to "advise" President Sarkis on a measures he may delegate to.

Although it is not stated so many words, the communiqué is the basis for a renewal of the Arab League peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

This means that Syria's 30,000 troops will remain in Lebanon for at least another six months despite the demands from Mr Chamoun and his colleagues.

is speculation that Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Ezer Weizman, the Minister of Defence, may return from Washington.

The Washington negotiations are expected here to be concluded by early next week at the latest. According to reports from Washington an understanding has been reached over a formulation of words regarding the link between the peace treaty and the measures to be taken over the Palestinians and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Egypt is said to have demanded that Israel make a commitment to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within three months of the signing of the treaty, and that on the same date the Israeli military administration in the occupied territory be abolished. According to the report, although the Egyptian demand was supported by the United States, Israel objected and a compromise agreement was later reached.

Washington: President Carter has invited the Egyptian and Israeli negotiators to meet him separately, amid signs the talks are nearing final agreement, diplomatic sources said.

They said that formal signing of a treaty might take place in mid-November.—UPI.

Arbitration agreed on Middle East treaty

From Michael Kolpe
Jerusalem, Oct 17

Israel and Egypt have agreed to go to arbitration should disputes arise during the implementation of the peace treaty now being finalized in Washington.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, disclosed this here today to the Nasser's foreign affairs and security committee. He said the arbitration committee would be chosen by both Israel and Egypt.

The face of some resentment at the secrecy with which the Camp David negotiations were conducted and the fact that neither the Cabinet nor the foreign affairs committee was kept informed, Mr Begin has been at pains to keep the two bodies briefed during the latest negotiations. The Cabinet was briefed on Sunday and again today.

The Prime Minister told the Knesset committee that before a peace treaty was initiated the Israeli Prime Minister, disclosed this here today to the Nasser's foreign affairs and security committee. He said the arbitration committee would be chosen by both Israel and Egypt.

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Benguela Railway to reopen

Luanda, Oct 17.—President Agostinho Neto of Angola said today that the Benguela railway, used for exports of zinc and copper, will be reopened before the middle of next month.

He was addressing a press conference with President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire after the two heads of state signed a framework agreement on cooperation between their two countries.

President Mobutu announced that Zaire no longer gave refuge to two Angola rebel groups which previously operated from its territory: the Angolan People's Liberation Front (FPLA) and the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front (FLEC).

The Zaire leader's visit here set the seal on the moratorium of the two countries' relations which had been poor since Angola's independence in 1975.

A joint communiqué signed at the close of President Mobutu's three-day state visit said the Benguela Railway, linking the Benguela Copperbelt and Shaba province with the Angolan Atlantic port of Lobito would be reopened, after being cut during the Angolan independence war.—Agence France-Presse.

deputy, left hurriedly for Windhoek this afternoon where he was expected to have discussions with the DTA on the proposed compromise.

The election issue was discussed at length during a protracted working dinner with Western ministers last night given by Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister. It was attended by Dr David Owen of Britain, Mr Cyrus Vance (the United States), Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher (West Germany), Mr Donald Jamieson (Canada), and Mr Olivier Stirn (France).

EDUCATIONAL

THE LEVERHULME TRUST FUND

Research Awards 1979

The Leverhulme Trustees, through their Research Awards Advisory Committee, offer the following awards for 1979-80:

(i) FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

A limited number of awards to senior persons pursuing their own investigations but not those leading to higher degrees or equivalent awards. No subject of enquiry excluded from consideration. Applicants must have been educated in the United Kingdom or any other part of the Commonwealth and be normally resident in the United Kingdom. Awards are available for 3 months-2 years. In exceptional circumstances a second award may be given providing the total duration of the two does not exceed 2 years. The amount awarded depends upon the circumstances but does not normally exceed £10,000.

Closing date for applications (Form F.2A) is 1st December 1978.

(ii) EMERITUS FELLOWSHIPS

A limited number of awards to assist with the completion of research already begun by persons who have recently reached, or are about to reach, retirement age and who have held academic positions in universities or other institutions of comparable status in the United Kingdom.

The awards are tenable for 1 or 2 years and are not renewable. They are intended to contribute towards incidental expenses and do not normally provide a personal allowance or a pension supplement. The amount depends upon the circumstances but does not exceed £10,000 a year.

Closing date for applications (Form FA) is 1st December 1978.

(iii) FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS IN EUROPEAN STUDIES

A limited number of awards to assist the members of the staff of universities and polytechnics in the United Kingdom to undertake advanced study or research in any European country other than the United Kingdom.

The awards are tenable for a minimum of 4 months in Europe, normally in not more than 2 separate periods. They are intended to contribute towards the direct expenses involved in a study programme. They must have been at school in the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth, be normally resident in the United Kingdom and under 50 on 1st October 1978.

Closing date for applications (Form FB) is 1st December, 1978.

(iv) SENIOR STUDENTSHIPS

Up to six studentships to enable those persons who left university at least 3 years ago to return and study full-time at a United Kingdom university.

Applicants must be first degree graduates of a United Kingdom university, holders of C.N.A.A. degrees or equivalent education in the United Kingdom and not already have a postgraduate degree. They must have been at school in the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth, be normally resident in the United Kingdom and under 27 on 1st October 1978.

A maintenance grant of £2,000 a year for 1 or 2 years is paid and at the discretion of the Committee a family allowance of up to £1,450 a year and a contribution towards fees of up to £500 a year.

Candidates must be available for interview in London in November.

Closing date for applications (Form SS.2A) is 5th January 1979.

(v) STUDY ABROAD STUDENTSHIPS

A limited number of studentships for a period of advanced study or research at a centre of learning in any other part of the world except the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. and to any subject other than modern languages.

Applicants must be first degree graduates of a United Kingdom university, holders of C.N.A.A. degrees or equivalent education in the United Kingdom and not already have a postgraduate degree. They must have been at school in the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth, be normally resident in the United Kingdom and under 27 on 1st October 1978.

An allowance of £2,000 a year for 1 or 2 years is paid for maintenance and fees, plus a return air passage, a language allowance and internal travel associated with the course of study. Further allowances may be paid at the discretion of the Committee, including a marriage allowance of £500 to a student accompanied by a dependent spouse and a cost of living allowance to a student going to a country where costs are abnormally high.

Candidates must be available for interview in London in April.

Closing date for applications (Form SAS.2A) is 5th January 1979.

Results of applications will be made known to candidates in April 1979. Awards must be taken up between 1st June 1979 and 1st May 1980.

Application forms and further information from The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust Fund, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NR. Telephone 01-348 3910.

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EDUCATIONAL

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Applications for smaller awards will also be considered and grants may also be made to the runners up. These awards are additional to the Trustees' normal arrangements for supporting tropical medical research.

Those wishing to apply should send a two-page summary of their objectives and proposals for research, including a brief estimate of the anticipated costs, for preliminary consideration. The principal scientist should also send a curriculum vitae.

Applications should be addressed to Mr. M. A. F. Barren, The Wellcome Trust, 1 Park Square West, London NW1 4LJ, and reach the Trust by 8th December 1978.

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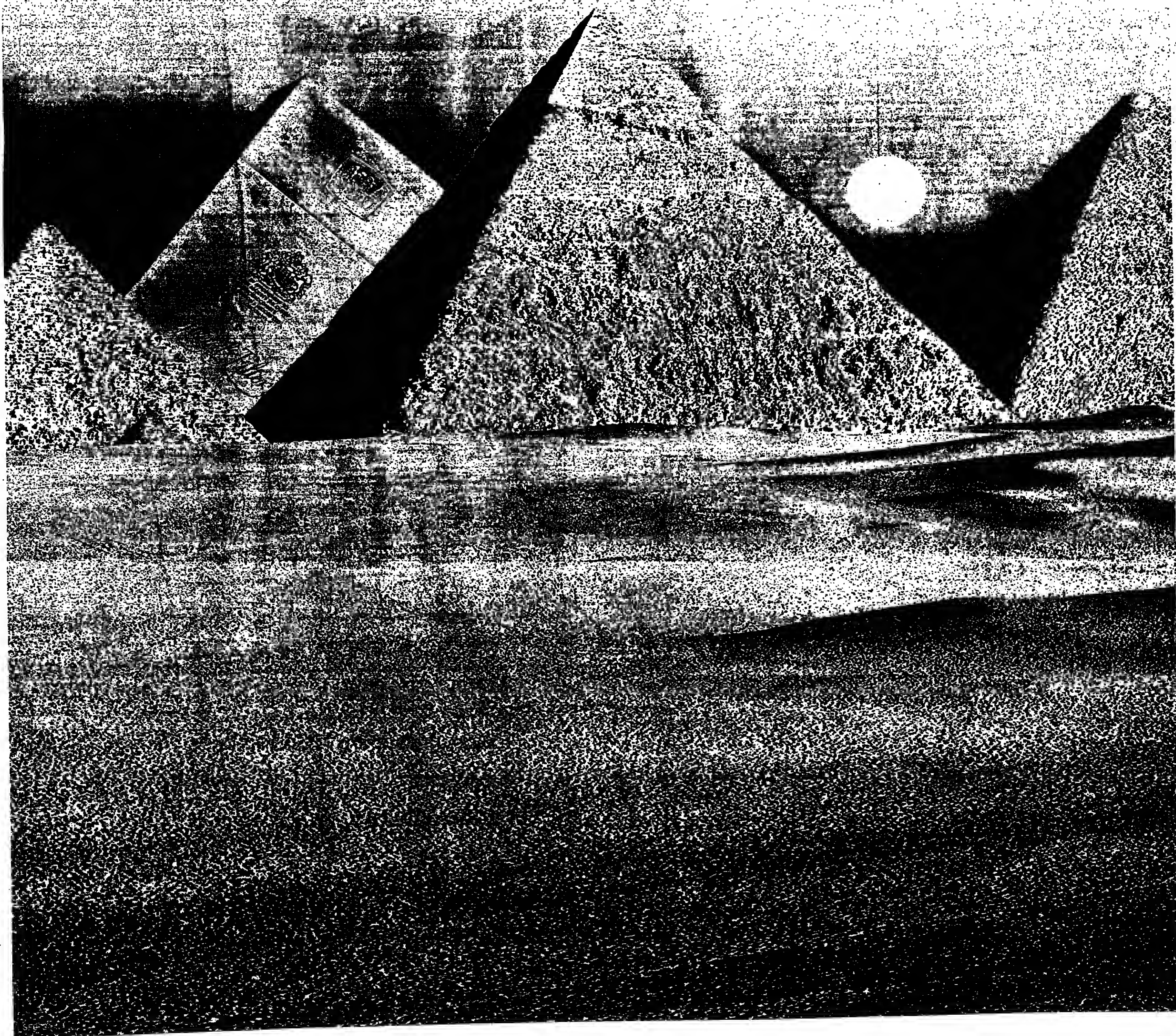
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Indonesia: how many good years are left?

Indonesia, the scene of political massacres that claimed the lives of nearly half a million people 13 years ago, appears now to have settled down to a new era of political stability—which should continue for the next five years.

After standing for a third term of office in the elections in March, President Suharto, a quiet pragmatist who believes in economic development rather than a demographic speeches, is firmly back in the saddle again with the support of the Army, the country's only effective source of political power.

And, perhaps more important to stability, the economic prospects of the vast archipelago of 3,000 islands look bright. The economy is expected to grow at a rate of 7 per cent this year while the inflation rate has been reduced to about 10 per cent.

Dressed with huge oil reserves, which account for 70 per cent of export earnings, Indonesia enjoyed a balance of payments surplus of \$320m last year.

Actual earnings from oil exports rose by 19 per cent last year to \$2,000m, while the value of Indonesia's other export commodities—timber, tin, tea, palm oil, tobacco and rubber, rose by 22 per cent to \$1,500m. Although oil production has levelled off during the past three months, Indonesia is expected to achieve another balance of payments surplus, of \$180m, in the current fiscal year.

Earnings from liquid natural gas, exported for the first time last year, are expected to rise to \$200m by 1980. And economists estimate that Indonesia's gold and foreign exchange reserves will rise to \$1,200m this year.

Careful fiscal planning also appears to have dented the economy over a national crisis which erupted three years ago, when the huge state-owned oil company, Pertamina, teetered close to bankruptcy. After raising commercial loans to keep the over-extended corporation afloat, Indonesia saw its external debts rise to an alarming \$3,000m last year. But earlier this year President Suharto's regime renegotiated the loans on more favourable terms and improved the debt service position for the near future.

Confronted with the prospect that Indonesia's population will grow from 135,000,000 people to 250,000,000 by the turn of the century, the government is making a determined effort to strengthen the country's family planning programme. As a result, the population growth rate has been held down to 2.4 per cent.

The country also expects another windfall this year: a record harvest of 17,000,000 tons of rice. As a result, Indonesia will only have to import 1,400,000 tons of rice this year, against the 2,600,000 tons which were shipped in last year.

On paper, then, a relatively rosy picture for a developing country. But Indonesia's economic planners are still haunted by two alarming long-term trends. The first is a decline in the production of oil, the lifeblood of Indonesia's economy, expected in the early 1980s, coupled with a rise in the domestic consumption of oil.

The significance of oil to the Indonesian economy can be



President Suharto

appreciated by the fact that it accounts for nearly 70 per cent of gross export earnings and half of government revenues.

Disenchanted with the terms of government contracts, foreign oil companies have slowed down their exploration activities in Indonesia and very few new fields are expected to come on stream in the next few years, to replace dwindling reserves of existing wells. "Oil exploration has picked up again but Indonesia's balance of payments could slip into deficit the year after next because of the hiatus in oil exploration", one western diplomat predicts.

According to the calculations of major foreign companies, Indonesia can only expect to receive 100,000 barrels of oil from new fields over the next two years. But domestic consumption is rising by 14 per cent a year.

Indonesia's economic planners are also somewhat disturbed by the fact that the world demand for oil is declining, due to the increased production in Alaska and the North Sea. More alarming still is the fact that Indonesia's major market, Japan, is likely to purchase more and more oil from China in the near future.

The other major spectre which is haunting Indonesia is a growing gap between agricultural production and consumption. At present the growth rate of agricultural production is a mere 3.5 per cent, while the population explosion has pushed consumption up by 7 per cent.

At the same time no viable industries have been developed to offset the potential decline in oil exports in the distant future. Earlier this year President Suharto warned the nation that the government's development budget had accounted for 60 per cent of domestic development projects in the past, but that this margin would decline to 40 per cent in the future. "I doubt whether private investment can fill the gap," a western business leader said. Indonesians also admit that they face another major problem in the future: the undue concentration of wealth in the capital of Jakarta and the fertile but crowded region of western Java. "The average size of the holdings of the poor are diminishing all the time and I doubt whether development spending assists the lot of the bottom 40 per cent of the nation," said a western diplomat.

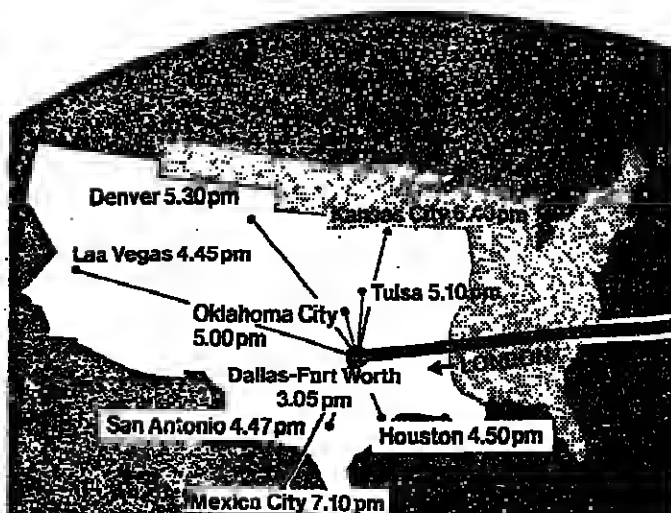
Peter Hazelhurst

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The new Star rising in the north



The new Daily Star and, below, publicity for the first issue of the 'gentlewoman's' Daily Mirror in 1903

ones, based on the promise that the Star can and will succeed without ever taking sales from the rivals Sun and Mirror. That is commendable in that it imbues advertisers with confidence, but neither the Sun nor the Mirror take the same view and both will be fighting back and promoting heavily, too. That old phrase, so much repeated when Murdoch's Star was launched, is back and

on target, whatever that target may be. Edited and supervised by young men, the Star may succeed, for the young tend to be fickle but fickleless carries its own dangers and can soon turn to disloyalty, thus forcing the Star to greater costs to hold a position.

Initially, the Star's great disadvantage seemed to be its price—cheaper papers may please readers but they carry no glamour with the distributors who work on percentages of the cover price, and who would rather push an 8p paper across the counter than one at 7p and certainly than one at 6p, as the Star is to be.

Express Newspapers, with its eyes wide open, is tackling that problem by giving away the same cash discount as for the dearer papers. That way lies danger for it is rarely possible to take away what has once been given and, although cash margins are not the same as percentage margins, middlemen are quick to count their revenues and may well insist on similar percentages for more expensive papers. The danger of the cheaper, launch model, as the Star's price rises (and what prices do not?) the burden will grow heavy. Meanwhile, wholesalers and retailers love the newcomer and will be selling enthusiastically.

Advertisers are always a shade more cautious despite their early willingness to jump aboard the expressively-promoted showboat. Mr Geoffrey Gridland, chairman of Garro Westbourne in the Dorland, Croydon group, reported his view and those of many of his colleagues in this major group, as being "fairly optimistic".

"If they can appeal to their launch region, then they ought to get excellent advertising support, especially as the competition constitutes much more expensive media like national papers or the larger, successful regional press which has a distinctly expensive page rate compared with the Star's rates.

The editorial must be right and we have every reason to believe it will be."

I asked Mr Gridland about the proposal to launch a Star in Scotland and the Southern TV areas. "I think it would probably need to follow the same kind of pattern," he said.

"It would have to be, edially, strongly regional in ever area it sells, giving it something the national ones have not got."

So might we have a north-south and Scottish Star three different papers? It is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

Express Newspapers originally planned to launch in the borders of Scotland during the latter part of this year and move south next January. But a wise natural caution has now certainly postponed any further Star editions until next spring. The start can be looked on as a test marketing, and if it sounds like the way a product is launched, the mirror is intentional for the editor's being marketed. Just though it were a can of beer or a new threat to the inst coffee brand leaders.

The Star gets a headstart being printed in Manchester, far from new but reliable equipment and with, so far, production staff who have not the troubles that are constant hitting national papers. Financial capital investment therefore negligible and it makes the Star's high start-up costs look rather better than would otherwise be the case.

Success or failure, large bolstered by the marketing and underwriting enthusiasm, skill and strength of Express Newspapers, lies mainly with the editorial appeal, of which advertisers and readers will be critically appraising.

Meanwhile, advertisers will profit from extra print runs as big promotions to get the page into every possible consumer corner while consumers themselves will benefit all round from the war.

The Star has a major even on its side. The night it got to press is the night of the European cup final—a cup final involving only northern clubs.

● The broad social status groups are as follows: A, upper middle class; B, middle class; C1, lower middle class; C2, skilled working class; D, working class; E, those at lowest levels of subsistence.

Bernard Levin

How to create an Unperson, the Kruger way

"Whereas I, James Thomas Kruger, Minister of Justice, am satisfied that you engage in activities which endanger or are calculated to endanger the maintenance of public order, I hereby, in terms of section 10(3)(a) of the Internal Security Act, 1950, prohibit you for a period commencing on the date on which this notice is delivered or tendered to you and expiring on . . ."

Thus begins the notice of banning that, in South Africa, is served upon those whom the authorities wish to crush, silence, intimidate, harass or simply persecute, but who have never engaged in any action that could bring them within even the immense rage and width of the laws designed to prevent any serious opposition to the policy of apartheid and the system of brutality, oppression, corruption, violence and ultimately murder which exists to sustain it. Yesterday, I recounted the history of the system and its legal basis; today, I want to describe exactly what happens to an individual when he or she is banned.

That is not at all an easy task, because there is a wide variety of kinds of banning.

since the Act under which banning is made is couched in terms which give the Minister of Justice almost limitless powers over his victims, the shirt of Nessus can be tailored to almost any shape. But broadly, a ban involves a basic prohibition on attending (I now quote the words of an Order):

- (a) any social gathering, that is to say, any gathering at which the persons present also have social intercourse with one another;
- (b) any political gathering, that is to say, any gathering at which any form of State or any principle or policy of the Government of a State is propagated, defended, attacked, criticised or discussed;
- (c) any gathering of pupils or students assembled for the purpose of being instructed, trained or addressed by you.

That decree (I shall come to the meaning of "gathering" in due course) may be accompanied by an order for restriction to a particular area or dwelling—i.e. an order for house arrest. A common form of the Order imposing the latter runs (after a similar preamble) as follows:

- (1) prohibiting you . . . from (a) attending yourself from . . .

- (a) the residential premises at (the victim's address) . . .
- (1) at any time on any Sunday or public holiday;
- (1) at any time on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, which is not a public holiday, except during the period commencing at six in the forenoon and ending at six in the afternoon;
- (1) at any time on any Saturday which is not a public holiday, except during the period commencing at six in the forenoon and ending at two in the afternoon.

So much for where the victim must stay and the times during which he or she must stay there (there have, of course, been cases of 24-hour house arrest, under which the victim could never leave home, but this has not been used for some time now); next, the Order states, no one may visit the house-arrested person except a doctor for medical reasons; then, the Order lists the places a banned person may not go to during the hours he or she is permitted out of doors. It includes any Bantu, Coloured or Indian area of any kind (most meticulously and exhaustively defined), educational establishments, factories, courts of law except in the capacity of plaintiff, defendant or witness, and buildings where any kind of

publication is printed, published or edited.

In addition, no communication of any kind, even a private letter or family matters, or indeed a birthday-greetings postcard, is permitted with any other banned person.

Then, however, comes the real meat of the Order, the purpose for which the banning system was devised. The victims are to be persecuted, their spirit if possible broken, their lives made unendurable (there is a practice, indulged in by the police, among others, of making threatening telephone calls during the night to banned victims, quite apart from the official methods of applying pressure by repeated searches of the victims' homes and harassment or arrest of their visitors); but that is not enough. The object of the state's enmity must be made, like the parallel Soviet system (how perfectly a man like Kruger would fit into the apparatus of Soviet tyranny, and how easily one like Andropov would take to the South African variety!), an Unperson. So first there is a prohibition on:

- (a) preparing, compiling, printing, publishing, disseminating or transmitting in any manner whatsoever any publication . . .

- (b) participating or assisting in any manner whatsoever in the preparation, compilation, printing, publication, dissemination or transmission of any publication . . .

- (c) contributing, preparing, compiling or transmitting in any manner whatsoever any matter for publication . . .

You would think that having prohibited the victim from publishing anything or in any way preparing anything for publication, and also from contributing or assisting in the contribution of any matter which somebody else might publish, the authorities might feel they had done enough. Not a bit of it; they then go on to prohibit the victim from:

- (a) preparing, compiling, printing, publishing, disseminating or transmitting in any manner whatsoever any document (which shall include any book, pamphlet, record, list, placard, poster, drawing, photograph or picture) which is not a publication within the meaning . . . above, in which, inter alia, any form of State or any principle of policy of the Government of a State is propagated, defended, attacked, criticised, discussed or referred to . . .

Students of the forms of persecution used by the Soviet authorities against dissidents there, and in particular those who want to emigrate, will understand immediately why an Order apparently prohibiting any kind of writing must be extended in that fashion. The point is that the first set of prohibitions (the second one goes on into further varieties, incidentally) would not catch a private letter, whereas the second one would. I have before me the opinion of a sympathetic South African lawyer who, asked to advise on the interpretation of a banning order, says that that last section:

may well mean that Consilium could not write to a friend in England asking whether it is likely that the rate of English Income Tax would be raised.

But even that does not exhaust the determination that a banned victim shall vanish from the face of the earth, silent and invisible. The final knot is tied with a prohibition applying to the victim, as to everybody else, and with that matter I shall begin, on Friday, my third and final column of the week on this subject.

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TASHKENT DIARY

Land of heroine mothers and green tea

You could be anywhere in the Middle East. Backgammon dice click against a background of oriental music, fountains play in the city squares, the air is soft with the fragrance of roses mixed with dust and some rather less attractive smells, close-cropped children pleading for chewing gum, scamper after tourists and in vine-shaded courtyards old men sip green tea and recline on large square beds.

Only the inevitable red and white slogans, statues of Lenin and portraits of Mr Brezhnev, as well as the grey and red uniforms of the police, tell you immediately you are in Soviet territory. Uzbekistan with its 14 million people is where the Soviet system meets the Oriental climate and way of life.

This is the old frontier land of the Russian Empire, where only 80 years ago Russian colonial governors were just consolidating their hold on the Tsar's newly conquered territories in central Asia. Uzbekistan was part of the larger Muslim region known as Turkestan. Entire in three old cities—Khiva, Bukhara and Kokand—ruled in feudal splendour and backwardness. Run-away slaves were nailed by their ears to the city gates. The last public executioner in Khiva, who operated with a sim-

ple sabre, died after a long retirement in 1967.

Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, does not have the historic associations or the gruesome history of the other large towns in the republic. Here all is new, planned, Soviet. The city was made the capital only in 1930 when the authorities found the monuments of Samarkand too constricting to allow future growth.

And since the devastating earthquake of 1966 which razed the city centre, Tashkent is being cleared of the traditional mud-daub buildings and transformed into a modern economic and administrative centre, with a new airport, tourist hotels and block upon block of high-rise apartments.

The building boom shows no sign of stopping. Tashkent now has nearly two million people, and planners estimate another million by the end of the century. This is not from natural increase, but from immigration from the countryside. Uzbekistan has one of the highest birth rates in the Soviet Union. The average family has seven or eight children. "Heroine mothers"—those with 10 children or more—are found aplenty.

The city authorities, far from trying to curb this growth rate, are delighted. Tashkent, like other Soviet cities, is short of labour. Though there are plans hopes that some of the new generation will move north to Siberia where labour is more urgently needed, nobody expects Uzbeks to leave their

sunny climate for the frozen wastelands without powerful incentives.

The birthrate does cause difficulties for the housing authorities. Unlike their counterparts in European Russia, planners here build many flats with five or six rooms for large families and if the family still cannot squeeze in they are allowed to spread into the flat across the corridor.

Tashkent planners are already shaping the city they foresee in the year 2010. All the centre will be parks and open spaces because the scientists decided this was the most active seismic zone. There are grandiose plans for underground stores and garages. But so far the practical signs of the new green city are bulldozers at work on the old quarters where there is room for the entire city to march past on May Day.

Cotton remains king in Uzbekistan. In Tashkent and all over the republic the magic number 5,700,000 can be seen emblazoned on the sides of buildings, strung across the roads or adorning the entrances to collective farms.

This is the planned tonnage for this year's cotton crop. It is a figure that must be reached and if possible surpassed. It has been said that Uzbekistan could make a fortune growing fruit and vegetables if it were allowed to. But central planners have decreed that cotton is more important and field upon field blossoms in the warm autumn.

In spite of some bleak statistics boasting the use of mechanical harvesters, old women can still be seen labouriously gathering the precious fluff. In all the collective farms, picturesque scenes of "Marx", "Engels", "Lenin", "Communist", and so on, vast white stacks the shape of houses wait for transport to the cotton gins.

Though industry has grown, the more recent boom is in tourism. Uzbekistan has a wealth of Islamic historical monuments which are worth their weight in foreign currency. Though the summer is fearfully hot, this does not deter British and American tour groups who make Tashkent the jumping-off point for a central Asian excursion. To Japanese, an intrepid guide observed, more sensibly prefer the spring. The Germans come all year round.

The best time is really the autumn. In mid-October the temperature is still in the 70's and the markets are full of ripe melons. The problem is that the Russians all know this and it is virtually impossible to find an aircraft seat from Moscow on any flight south. Even when you have your seat, you can spend half your holiday in best Heathrow style waiting for the aircraft to arrive. Delays of up to 10 hours are not at all uncommon and the hundreds who wait at Moscow's Domodedovo airport— which serves the south and east—have a perpetual look of tired resignation.

The autumn is also prime



ners Dorothy Hodgkin and Linus Pauling posing with a group of fellow scientists amid the blue-tiled monuments on their day off from scientific papers.

Uzbekistan was carved out of the old Asian empire as a homeland for those that speak Uzbek, a language akin to Turkish. But the peoples of this region are so mixed up that almost as many can be found who speak Tadzhik, Turkmen and other Asian languages as Uzbeks, some of 165,000, there are 80 different cautious titles.

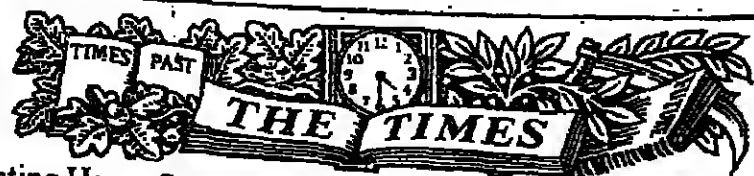
Russians swarmed south in a wave of emigration earlier, and Russian is much in evidence in Tashkent. It is also the language to learn if you want to get ahead. But schools teach in all the minority languages.

The republic does not demonstrate the fierce nationalism of Georgia or Armenia, perhaps because of the contrast between the feudal past and the present Soviet way of life is so much more striking, and social progress more measurable. However, it is an area that has a strong pride in its past, which Soviet authorities are discreetly encouraging.

It was a shame to leave the Soviet Union's smiling sunbath and return to dour, political Moscow.

Michael Binyon

Michael Binyon's diary from Samarkand will be published on Friday.



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THE LESSONS OF LUXEMBOURG

is week's meeting of EEC finance ministers at Luxembourg has been of considerable importance in the history of the common currency. That history, since the summit meeting at the Hague in 1969, has been marked by an evident political and monetary union combined in an equally evident political will to, or even to underlie, the means to that end.

Before the Luxembourg meeting it appeared that Mr Healey and the British delegation represented the minority that was preoccupied with the Franco-German initiative to move Europe's exchange rates on to a more stable "currency grid".

After the Luxembourg meeting it is clear that the lack of common purpose and analysis was much wider. It is now almost certain that a new system will be agreed in time to be introduced from January 1 next, and Mr Healey can justly say that it is not the British Government's fault if this deadline cannot be met.

There is nothing new in the analysis of the central problem. It is that exchange rates are a

function of market forces, which are dominated by national economic and monetary performance. More stable exchange rates are desirable both in terms of higher rates of real economic growth and in terms of lower rates of inflation. More stable exchange rates, however, are the product of converging national monetary and general economic policies. They can never be the product of technical gimmicks in the realm of central banks and foreign exchange market intervention.

Nothing underlines this fact more than the weekend revaluation of the German mark. Ever within the present small club of "snake" members operating a "periphery grid", countries whose economies are quite closely interrelated, the German authorities have been forced to intervene to an extent which began dangerously to inflate the domestic German money supply and were finally forced to concede a revaluation of the mark.

The argument before Luxembourg had centred on where the main obligation to maintain the main exchange rates should lie. Should it be with all currencies to maintain their position in relation to the average? Or with

the weaker currencies to keep in step with the stronger? Or in some unclear compromise between the two positions, put forward by the Belgians? This arcane argument, however, covers the fact that absolutely fundamental questions of national economic policy are involved. For if one system is adopted rather than another it means that one country rather than another is forced by outside factors to make radical adjustment to its internal economic policy. Politicians know that, if the problem is posed in these stark political terms, primitive chauvinism is evoked. There is, however, no evading this issue. It cannot be dressed up as a matter of foreign exchange technicality.

As the position of the dollar progressively weakens as the cornerstone of our international monetary system, so it becomes more important that the economies of the EEC should provide a base for international currency and reserve stability. The hope from Luxembourg is that the realization that these are not mere technical matters will lead to a renewed frontal approach to European economic integration on a more realistic basis.

SOME HARD KNOCKS FOR MR TRUDEAU

he results of the fifteen acedon-by-elections will be analysed for the likely outcome of next year's general election, the auguries for the Liberals, who won two of the fifteen, are gloomy. They may reflect that on the last occasion when a federal parliament was allowed to run its full term, the Government lost office. That happened in the middle of the depression of the thirties. Canada is not now in such straits, but it is passing through a period of "stagflation" which Canadians feel is unnecessarily more severe than in the United States. The economic indicators, which are usually decisive with voters in democracies, are running in exactly the opposite direction to the little time they have left to recover their fortunes.

Mr Trudeau knows this, but perhaps did not expect such a setback. He had delayed cabinet changes to the hope of being able to freshen the Government's appearance by bringing in new blood. But the loss of Toronto Rosedale to the Progressive Conservatives disappointed his hopes of the services of Mr John Evans, the former President of Toronto University, a Liberal light who was expected to be a "shoe in" for a cabinet post; another disappointment was the failure of Mr Bryce Mackenzie, one of Mr Trudeau's close associates who was trying to return to federal politics after Liberal service in the Quebec assembly, to an Ottawa seat which the Liberals had held for fifty years. Mr Trudeau is now

hard put to improve his tired-looking team—already he has two ministers doubling jobs.

The hardest knock to Liberal morale was the loss of Toronto York to the Progressive Conservatives, as it traditionally goes as the omen goes. A general discontent with the Liberal record is suggested by the successes of the New Democratic Party as well as the Conservatives, and by the failure of the Liberals to make their expected gains in Quebec from the ailing Creditiste party. The farmers' club to their local form of conservatism. The Conservative victory in Winnipeg was perhaps of similar significance, since that particular constituency contains a strong French Canadian element. It suggests that French Canadians are, in some circumstances, ready to abandon Mr Trudeau. To the Federal picture must be added the recent overthrow of the Liberal government in Nova Scotia by the Conservatives. It remains to be seen if the provincial elections in New Brunswick (forty per cent French Canadian) and Saskatchewan this week echo the pattern of Liberal unpopularity deeper.

The Progressive Conservatives are understandably elated. The winter holds little prospect of returning prosperity, though unemployment has fallen this month. Inflation, at a rate of around nine per cent, is marginally higher than the current British rate, but not after successful efforts to reduce it from a still higher figure. The Canadian

dollar may go lower yet, as the weight of debts and other services eats deeper into the not very buoyant export surplus. The Conservatives may well think their message of retrenchment and reform is going down well when they can take a seat in Ottawa from the Liberals, despite their pledge to abolish 60,000 civil service jobs (nationwide) against the Liberals' proposed cut of 5,000 only.

But Mr Clark has not overdone his triumph. In the first place he knows that by-elections are a traditional way of expressing discontent without actually exchanging the devil you know for the devil you don't; in a general election many lost sheep return to the party fold. He has, moreover, very proper reservations about the emerging shape of a possible Conservative victory. His party failed to win any seats in Quebec, despite the great efforts he directed there. If the Conservatives should form a government next year, it looks like being exclusively based on English-speaking Canada over against a Liberal opposition almost confined to Quebec, where a secessionist party holds power provincially. Such a polarization would be a toxic to Mr René Lévesque whose central purpose to take Quebec out of federation seemed to be rebuffed by the election results. In opinion polls, then, the rejection of Mr Trudeau's record could have grave results for Canada. This prospect itself may improve the Liberals' standing as time goes on.

LEONARD NEAL, Flat 68, Millbank Court, 24 John Islip Street, SW1.

Do trade unions increase wages?

From Sir Leonard Neal
Sir, I have been waiting with considerable interest for the reply of Mr David Bannister, General Secretary of the G.M.W.U., or of some other major trade union leader, to the vital issues raised by Sir Geoffrey Howe in his detailed and authoritative letter to *The Times* (September 28). So far I have been disappointed. For although the questions raised by Sir Geoffrey are central to the interests of trade union members and, indeed, to the political and economic wellbeing of the nation, Mr Bannister's somewhat specific reference was made, has apparently chosen to ignore the Shadow Chancellor's letter, and it has been similarly ignored by other trade union leaders.

Sir Geoffrey's letter, which followed an earlier speech on the subject, showed the claim of trade union leaders not merely to speak for the population as a whole, but to speak for the nation as a whole. It also criticized a number of trade union procedures; and questioned whether the political partnership between trade union leaders and Labour politicians meant that the latter could mislead or disregard the wishes of their members in order to achieve Socialist objectives.

Even more fundamentally, Sir Geoffrey raised the central issues of whether trade union activity increases or reduces real wages, and whether it creates or destroys jobs. I doubt whether there are more important and fundamental economic and political problems than these; they surely merit a reply from Mr Bannister or some other trade union spokesman.

In particular, Sir Geoffrey asked: What is the real objective of the supposedly solid union block vote? How far is the total membership conspired before the block vote is cast? How is opposition or abstention recorded? What account is taken of the fact that a large number of union members are not Labour Party supporters?

Sir Geoffrey's final—and most important—question was: Has trade union activity raised living standards, as the unions triumphantly claim? Or has the combined and overall effect of the abuse of their monopoly power—the enforcement of overmanpower and other restrictive practices, strikes, strike threats, and the frequently successful attempts to implement inflationary policies on governments—been to reduce the standard of living of the nation below what it would otherwise have been?

If there is only a prima facie case to be answered here, it should be available to us. For the positive case for the unions is that they make to creating real employment and real prosperity is enormous. It is one that would be so much more effective than the current stance which appears to be that of laying this responsibility on all other shoulders than their own.

LEONARD NEAL, Flat 68, Millbank Court, 24 John Islip Street, SW1.

An Amnesty appointment

From the Director of Amnesty International, British section

Sir, Mr Brian Crozier alleges in his letter (October 12) that the work of Amnesty International is biased in favour of communist countries; and that the appointment of Professor Crozier to present the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania and a member of the Communist Party of Australia, will increase this alleged bias.

Careful readers of your own columns, indeed your own Editorials from time to time, will know that every effort is made at all levels of our organization to balance our work geographically and politically.

We are not in possession of adequate information to enable us to comment on Mr Crozier's statement that the present Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania and a member of the Communist Party of Australia, will increase this alleged bias.

On the question of Professor Crozier's conduct when he joins our organization next year, I can state categorically that the checks and balances in the workings of the research department at our International Secretariat, the painstaking procedures for the selection of staff, the basic grounds of understanding and accepted by all employees and the lines of responsibility both of paid staff and elected committee members, make it impossible for anyone, even the Secretary General, to suppress information or affect the built-in integrity of our work. Yours faithfully, DAVID SIMPSON, 8-14 Southampton Street, WC2.

Future of Times papers

From Mr Reg Brady

Sir, Thank you for publishing a letter on October 16 from Lord Chorley in which he exposes the real purpose of Times Newspaper Ltd, in which he said "Surely that in the absence of comprehensive agreement" no other course of action... except suspension... of the members of the public interest in assured publication can be ultimately preserved."

He says "agreement within the framework of the Joint Programme for Action or suspension must apply." What he and Lord McGregor have not understood is that the programme for Action was rejected by the members of the public interest on a democratic vote, and will not be any more acceptable by dictar from Times Newspapers Ltd.

People must understand that any improvements within the industry can only come about by consent and agreement. Brainworkers are fellow humans and not battery hens. Yours sincerely, REG BRADY, c/o 200 Gray's Inn Road, WCL

The Tory approach to Rhodesia

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Over the weekend reports from Maputo and an article by Mr Colin Leum in *The Observer* have made public the terms of "Option B". Under this the British and American Governments have suggested that a Nkomo controlled Rhodesian government could be accorded international recognition, even without preliminary elections. This would seem to confirm the suspicion expressed in your leading article of October 13 that the British and American Governments have now sold out to the Patriotic Front.

Conservative policy, however, as I understand it, remains that we should support self-determination in Rhodesia through the electoral process. And indeed Mr John Davies's letter of October 14 means—if it means anything—that sanctions should only be lifted if the sixth principle has been fulfilled by means of the general election proposed under the Internal Settlement, with Patriotic Front participation if possible but without it if necessary. Mr Davies's letter, however, seems to overlook that the general election could only make the holding of that election more difficult if not impossible.

Renewed sanctions must encourage the Patriotic Front and the Front Line Presidents to step up their efforts to frustrate the electoral process. The Patriotic Front has already declared that they will murder anyone who threatens to vote, irrespective of which way they vote.

Renewed sanctions must also make it more difficult for the security forces to acquire the means—helicopters, Land Rovers, communication equipment, weapons, etc.—with which they could protect voters against such intimidation. They must also discourage local guerrilla commanders from coming to terms with the Transitional Government. Out of some 7,000 guerrillas operating inside Rhodesia, about 1,000 have already arranged ceasefire agreements with the Transitional Government authorities. Others have put out feelers to the same end. But they must be expected to hesitate if the whole international community, including a possible next Conservative government, are against them.

Mr Davies also seems to overlook another fundamental consideration. If the sanctions order is passed by the Parliament in November, we shall be the only country to impose sanctions against the Rhodesian Front regime but imposing them on the new multi-racial Transitional Government formed last March. That Government has already implemented or is in the course of implementing all the six principles. Are we really justified in penalizing them? Should we not rather recognize them, as Mr Maudling and well over 100 other MPs have proposed, as the lawful Government of an independent Rhodesia, and withdraw our troops from the self-governing colony of Rhodesia before UDI.

Recognition of full independence, as Mr Davies implies, should not doubt await a general election. Meanwhile should not the Conservative Party send the Transitional Government a message of hope that there could be a change of policy in Britain within a year? Might it not also be wise to warn the Patriotic Front that their victory is not inevitable and that they could do well to accept the Transitional Government's invitation that Nkomo and Mugabe should join them in Salisbury and help implement the Internal Settlement. The only effective way to do this would be by an official Opposition vote against the renewal of sanctions. Yours faithfully, JULIAN AMERY, 112 Eaton Square, SW1.

Culling Orkney seals

From Lord Cranbrook

Sir, On October 14, Dr Barton Worthington described in a letter how after a preliminary survey, a cull of seals was carried out by a committee of which he was chairman had estimated that the population was likely to double every ten years. It recommended that to the interest of fisheries the population should be reduced by 25 per cent and that could probably be done by culling about 1,000 pups, a cull which started in 1963.

Research has continued and a special Seals Research Unit was set up in 1965 and more probably now known of the distribution, number, population dynamics and general ecology of British grey seals than of any other mammals. A new Seals Advisory Committee of which I am chairman was set up in 1970 to advise the Minister on the management of seal populations.

We have found that Dr Worthington's Committee was correct in its estimate of the probable rate of increase of an unregulated population, such as that in the Hebrides, which is doubling every 11 years, but that they underestimated the size of the necessary cull even to keep numbers stable. The Orkney population has increased from 10,500 in 1963 to 15,000 in 1977.

The Committee therefore advised the Minister that there should be an additional annual cull of 900 adult females with their associated pups for six years in the Hebrides and in Orkney/North Ronald in alternate years so that the number of pups born to each group could be contained within the cull's carrying capacity and the necessity of continuing or slowing down the cull decided in the light of those findings.

Grey seals are fascinating creatures: there are few pleasures greater than lying watching them, save perhaps lessening over a game of chess and evening watching rabbits play about as they come out of a wood. If there are too many rabbits and they ruin my corn or

as Professor Hutchinson suggests, that if he had been a little less reserved about the internal settlement, I would have had a better chance of success, but there is no reason to suppose that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe would be any more ready to come to a conference chaired by Mr Callaghan than to one chaired by Dr Owen. Even if they attended such a conference, there is no real evidence that they would place anything more away than they have done already.

Professor Hutchinson seems also to exaggerate the part the Crown can play. It is, of course, true that if strict constitutional legality is observed, the Rhodesian Government will at some stage have to make its submission to the Crown before being granted independence, but the whole thrust of British policy towards abating the problem of Rhodesia rather than emphasizing an exclusive British responsibility. This means that any submission to Britain would be more nominal than real, since the peacekeeping force which would then be necessary would be international and for a strictly limited period.

Present Ministers are, to a large extent, the prisoners of mistakes made in 1965. Mr Wilson then threw away the ace of spades by giving Smith information for which he would otherwise no doubt have paid very highly, namely, that if Smith took UDI, no military action by Britain against Rhodesia would follow. After UDI, the British Government made a spectacle of itself by on the one hand employing an absurd rhetoric appropriate to a colonial rebellion, whilst at the same time insinuating civil servants, through the Governor, to remain at their posts.

Afterwards British policy was for years bedevilled by the pursuit of incoherent aims—on the one hand to emphasize British responsibility even to the point of using the veto in the United Nations, and on the other hand to internationalize the problem, also through the United Nations. Now at least the Government has realized that it cannot handle Rhodesia alone, that no agreement which excludes the Patriotic Front can be expected, and that if it is obliged to send a peacekeeping force, it must send it as part of a United Nations mission.

This determination to share the load of importance, not only the Rhodesian problem, but also in connexion with the even greater problems presented by South Africa, the future of South Africa is primarily a matter for South Africa, but Britain will be expected to play her part in bringing about a peaceful change, perhaps a large part, in view of past history and present links. At the same time, it must be a prime British interest to share the responsibility as widely as possible and in particular with her partners in the EEC and with the United States. The self-governing colony of Rhodesia is possible to discern the beginning of a trend which may stretch many years ahead.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER R. HILL, Director, Centre for Southern African Studies, University of York, Heslington, York.

An ideal state

From Sir George Heygate

Sir, Your reviewer, Paul Barker (October 5) uses the word "catastrophe" (presumably meaning ecological). This information is dubious, to say the least.

He apparently thinks that the root meaning of "utopia" is "a good place". It is not. It is a Latinised form of the Greek *ou* (not) and *topos* (place), i.e. "nowhere".

Obviously More was a realist: he knew that the ideal state does not exist. Yours faithfully, GEORGE HEYGATE, Willow Grange, Walsworth, Suffolk.

Yorkshire cricket troubles

From Mr Geoffrey Boycott

Sir, In June my letter to you publicly declared my intention to play for Yorkshire and England as long as I could maintain my ability. This is still my wish.

Yvonne's letter about the irritation by a member or members of the committee to Hutton to Captain Yorkshire made on July 28, 1972, in my second season as Captain, is informative.

Even after Yvonne's departure at the end of 1974 my Captaincy continued to be seriously disrupted. I formally discussed this situation with two high officials of the Club in February, 1975; I was assured that action would be taken and this assurance was confirmed in writing. Some action must have been taken because, in relative calm, my young team and I were able to have a splendid season.

However, the disruptive elements reappeared and continued unabated from then on until the culmination at Northampton and my subsequent dismissal from the Captaincy. I believe it was only my century of centuries that saved me from dismissal last year.

My team has never had a chance (and they are beginning to be a real force in County Cricket), for no team can serve two masters and gain success; disruption and success are poor bedfellows.

I sincerely hope, for the sake of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, that its all powerful General Committee will see fit to resolve matters this week so that I can fly to Australia knowing that my efforts to eradicate disloyalty have achieved success. Yours faithfully, GEOFF BOYCOTT, 45 Milton Terrace, Fitzwilliam, Northampton, West Yorkshire, October 17.

Mr Heath on pay

From Professor John D. Linswood

Sir, By quoting Heraclitus against Mr Heath, Bernard Levin (October 12) is making the same error as some of Heraclitus's disciples, a couple of generations after his death.

In saying that you cannot step twice in the same river, the master was emphasizing that no entity remains constant in all its perils. It is making the same error as the ever changing patterns of a river made a vivid illustration of the point.

Some of his disciples became so obsessed with this insight that they gave up using words altogether because they could never be certain what they stood for. Happily, no such desperate measure is to be expected from Mr Levin—and presumably he would not claim that because a personage called Bernard Levin crossed a river called the Thames in 1978, an event capable of being clearly described cannot occur in 1979.

Bernard Levin (1979) will differ in some particulars from Bernard Levin (1978)—chastened, perhaps—and the Thames (1979) from the Thames (1978), but the statement "Bernard Levin crossed the Thames" will still be a useful statement with discernible meaning.

Equally Edward Heath (1979) will be different from Edward Heath (1974) and the Conservative Party (1979) will be different from the Conservative Party (1974). It may be that changes over time will be such as to preclude the cojunction of the Conservative Party, Edward Heath (1979) and the Conservative Party (1979). The tag from Heraclitus gives no guidance on the point.

I don't know if Mr Levin has ever jumped in a river, but for practical purposes I do not see that Mr Heath would be asking the impossible if he invited him to do so again. Sincerely, JOHN O. LINSWOOD, Professor of Classical Humanities, Tulane University, New Orleans, USA.

October 13.

By rail in France

From Mr Roy Ploemey

Sir, I was interested to read (October 16) the letter from the spokesman for French Railways in defence of compostage, and to note that in future the system will be explained in English; but he does not mention the matter which inspired this correspondence, the return of the 40 francs which I was so unjustly fined.

However, I am happy to report that my money has now been recovered. With regret, I must add that its return does not appear to have been in response to my own protest, but because a distinguished French citizen, whom I happen to know and who was nearly as angry about the incident as I was, intervened on my behalf, obtained the money from the SNCF and has forwarded it to me.

The matter having thus ended reasonably satisfactorily, I shall continue to spend my holidays in France, and promise to be an exemplary composteur.

Yours faithfully, ROY PLOEMEY, 91 Deodar Road, Putney, SW15, October 16.

PRIORITY FOR POLLUTION COMPENSATION

The statistics show clearly that human error is the main single cause of tanker accidents resulting in oil pollution. That cannot be legislated against.

What can be done, however, is to ensure that the possibility of committing such an error is reduced as far as possible and that, if an accident does occur, its consequences are kept to a minimum. There are three stages at which to take action. At the preventive stage, much is already being done, although more slowly than might be desired. Under the aegis of IMCO, the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, a number of conventions have been developed dealing with safety and navigation standards and maritime anti-pollution measures. A convention expected to come into force in 1981 will go even further in imposing strict standards to apply to the building of tankers and to the methods used in handling and discharging cargo.

There are, too, a host of bilateral and regional arrangements. IMCO and the Law of the Sea conference are attempting to strengthen the deterrent effect of punitive measures against

offenders, partly by giving the post-state greater powers. Improving training of tanker crews—on which IMCO has had a recent conference—is also a high priority.

At the second stage, where the accident has occurred and there is a threat of pollution to the coast, the Department of Trade has drawn up an elaborate procedure, constantly under review, for dealing with emergencies. It does not always work perfectly—the Elena V operation cannot be counted a total success—and there are lessons to be learnt from every incident, but the government cannot be said to be inactive. More resources, of course, would enable that much more action to be taken.

It is at the third stage, where the pollution has resulted in actual physical and financial damage, that the position is least satisfactory. The aftermath of the Amoco Cadiz disaster has shown up some of the complex legal and insurance difficulties in the way of a claimant, who has incurred loss through the pollution, obtaining compensation. There are often four pos-

sible countries in which action can be brought—the country where the damage occurred, the flag-state of the tanker, the country where the ship-owners are based, and the oil-company's base. There are also a number of potential defendants, some of whom will not be worth suing and others difficult to get to submit to jurisdiction.

The aim of the international community must be to achieve certainty of compensation to those who have suffered the effects of pollution. One of the ways in which that could be done is to impose strict liability on the company which owns the oil which has caused the damage, whether it was being transported in one of its own ships or on charter, and whatever flag the tanker was flying under. That rule would have the subsidiary effect of placing a greater sense of responsibility on the oil company to ensure that the tankers it owns or charters are in adequate condition and manned by competent crew. Ultimately, of course, the insurance market would bear the loss, and no doubt raise its premiums accordingly. But at least the innocent victims would not suffer.

Chicago boys in Chile

From Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, There is one feature to the success of the Chilean experiment which neither Mr Congdon (letter, October 16) nor Mr Seers seems to have taken into account. This is that Chile is a dictatorship equipped with secret police, detention camps etc. where strikes are ruled out and the organization of workers in trade unions is prohibited.

It is easy under these conditions to keep wages down and thereby gradually bring inflation to an end. The same is true of South Korea, the other great success story of the "Chicago boys".

And if we take Professor Hayek literally, a fascist dictatorship of some kind should be regarded as the necessary pre-condition (along with monetarism) of a "free society". Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS KALDOR, King's College, Cambridge, October 16.

Opening the Higher Avon

From Mrs J. B. Priestley

Sir, A Private Bill to open the Higher Avon to navigation is ready for presentation to Parliament. It relates to a scheme devised by Mr David Hurlingham and his Higher Avon Navigation Trust to make a second link between Stratford-on-Avon and the Grand Union Canal. The construction of locks and weirs, dredging, bankworks and other potent changes are involved.

This stretch of the river has never been fully open to navigation, a fact distinguishing it sharply from the Stratford Canal and other routes successfully restored in the recent past. It is a much varied little waterway with shallows, lifted banks, willow swamps, floating lily mats and a correspondingly rich variety of birds, beasts and fishes.

Should this surviving tract of undisturbed river be prized open, one does feel that during the summer months it will carry a heavy traffic including long-boats of up to 60 feet and large numbers of those motor cruisers that are as destructive of natural quiet and charm as are their wheeled counterparts.

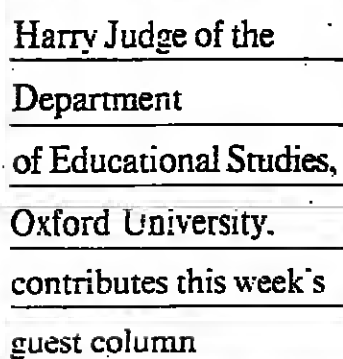
Nature and countryside conservation groups, ramblers, anglers, canoeists, farmers, villagers and many more are making their special protests. I would like to enter a mere general plea.

There is among us an old notion that the right to keep some corners of our land inviolate comes from a privileged and selfish few. I believe it to be as dead as the line of tower blocks. Such an urge might have saved the dodo.

A feeling that provision for popularized, mechanized amusement has now gone quite far enough affects all society. Here by the banks of the Avon even the Midlands Council for Sport and Recreation has resolved that for the sake of the present unobtrusive frequenter of the river the "proposed legislation should be opposed".

Surely Mr Hurlingham and the Trust should withdraw their Bill. Does it not deserve to fail?

Yours faithfully, JACQUETTA PRIESTLEY, Kississ Tree House, Alveon, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.



For those who think precisely, centuries and reigns should mean nothing. The Middle Ages, if they ever began, did not end for us in 1485 and nineteenth-century attitudes did not wither at midnight on December 31, 1899. Decades, it might be supposed, have an even more showy right to recognition. But it is sometimes useful to talk of Victorian attitudes, or even morality, while shorthand allusions to the 1890s or the 1920s are part of the common currency of conversation.

There are, then, plenty of precedents for squinting around the corner into the 1980s, and this is a particularly useful exercise for those who make a living out of education, are involved in it, have children or hope for the education of other people's children, or employ the products of the educational system. Useful, in a word, for all of us. Things may look very different from a safe distance,

say one hundred years from now, but it will be surprising if even then historians and commentators do not remark on the sharp contrasts between the 1960s and the 1980s. It is no use hothotting about the 1970s, for they seem to make no sense at all.

The 1960s are already beginning to assume a warm retrospective glow. (The delights of the decade might not have been obvious er the time, but even Renaissance men did not spend all their time hopping about in a frenzy of creative excitement.) The Education Act of 1944 had worked its parties and the thought of England had new schools glistering everywhere, and teachers were multiplying (even if their pupils were unable to).

Primary schools became a utopia of open freedom, and everywhere tedious instruction was yielding to purposeful inquiry. More and more young people stayed on at school to relish a sixth-form education.

The Robbins report became the only text on which universities and polytechnics became part of an empire on which the concrete never set. Government levies provided teachers (from the greatest to the smallest) were left free to choose what and how they chose.

Our own decade has been in

863,000 were born in England and Wales, but 10 years later, only 602,000.

The consequences of a change of that kind are incalculable. Some schools will be half empty; others (of which?) will have to close. Sixth forms will shrink; many of them are already too small. A democracy is much better adapted to dealing with expansion than with contraction or restriction. The technical problems will be vast for the contraction will not be total and consistent. Within the overall decline of numbers there will be temporary surges, hitting different parts of the system at different times, and at the end of the decade another period of expansion may begin. For reasons which are scarcely novel, power will therefore pass from the periphery to the centre. A system going through changes on this scale will survive if it is managed, and crumble if it is not.

The second major change is that, just as there will be no children, so there will be no work. It may not be long, in this country, as in others, before half of the young are leaving school. It will be unable to find employment for them, and they will argue that they could find it if they were better educated. It is, of course, to distract attention from the real problem. Productivity means fewer jobs, or a different kind.

It may be that each of these two problems—no children, and no jobs—can be used to solve the other. This can be done if the relationship of education to the economy can be reversed, or if the frontiers of work, leisure, education and retirement can be redrawn. If there are empty places in the educational system (not just in schools?), then let work be done by those for whom work in the conventional sense does not exist. But that cannot mean a simple extension of schooling at the begin of life. Our best hope lies in the system in which older people do the heavy and unglorious work, and young people in a national contest in their thirties and forties—refreshing and re-equipping themselves, and reducing pressure upon the labour market. Some, with a new capacity for leisure, might be able to grow and cling grimly to work as the one justification for existence.

This is what is meant by that redefinition of the frontiers of work, leisure, education and retirement, which is set by the greatest task of the 1980s. It is a task which we cannot achieve it. But government can achieve it only if public attitudes themselves change first. Perhaps they will, but there is not much time.

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Law Report October 17/1978

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Acas: importance of impartiality

**Duport Furniture Products Ltd
v Moore and Another**
Before Mr Justice Kilner Brown.
Mr J. Milligan and Mr D. Lambert
[Judgment delivered October 13]

[illegible][illegible]

Church news

[illegible]

We're in for a Dry spell.

Hot, blazing sun. Electric blue sky. Warm sand. Long, lazy afternoons.
If it weren't for the cool, refreshing taste that springs from Martini Dry's unique blend of fine wines and herbs...
Well, the whole thing would be just too much to bear.

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WED

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Condition	Control (%)	MCI (%)	AD (%)
A	~95	~85	~75
B	~90	~80	~70
C	~85	~75	~65
D	~95	~90	~85

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	~65%
30-49	~75%
50-69	~80%
70+	~85%

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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surveyors

Bonn monetary talks expected to focus on the political aspects

By Peter Norman
Luxembourg, Oct 17
West Germany will try to solve technical issues in the background when the question of the planned European Monetary System (EMS) is raised in general consultations with the French Government in Bonn. The West German government spokesman, Herr Klaus Wille, told journalists in Bonn today that the talks between Mr James Callaghan and Mr Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, would concentrate on the political aspects of the EMS rather than the technical details.

According to senior officials in the Bonn Finance Ministry, a German Government is anxious not to get bogged down in a discussion of the technical details of the EMS, but to concentrate on the political aspects of the EMS. The German Government is anxious to see the EMS as a political project, rather than a technical one.

It is likely that the Germans will try to persuade the British that a significant revaluation of the Deutsche mark inside the existing currency "snake" should not be regarded as a precondition for British joining the EMS.

Finance ministry sources pointed out that the pound, the lira and the French franc, are at present floating against the currencies of the "snake" and that it should be left to the market to determine the rates at which these currencies would enter the new system.

They maintain that last week-end's mark revaluation in the "snake" was not a preliminary to the establishment of the EMS, and that economic conditions in the member countries of the existing joint European float and little to do with the revaluation.

Instead, the upward adjustment of the mark by 2 per cent against the Benelux currencies and 4 per cent against the Danish and Norwegian crowns was necessary to take account of the effects of the dollar's weakness on the "snake".

The move leading up to the adjustment underlines one of the major concerns of the West German Federal Bank as regards British demands, that the EMS should be based on a basket-orientated intervention system.

The bank has always argued that such a system would be the basis of currency intervention on the Germans and so boost domestic money supply to such an extent as to encourage inflation.

Top priority for State industry control Bill

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

A Bill to increase the ability of government ministers to intervene in the running of nationalised industries is likely to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

The intention to introduce legislation to enact changes in the relationship between Government and the nationalised industries alone the lines set out in a White Paper published in April is expected to be announced in the Queen's Speech.

The Bill, called the Public Corporation (Statutory Powers) Bill, is believed to have high enough priority to be brought before the House of Commons by Christmas.

The Bill is expected to be made available for a Bill to reorganise the electricity supply industry. A draft Bill on this subject was published as a White Paper after it failed to gain Liberal support.

The Bill was intended to create a single statutory authority for the industry, but leave a large measure of autonomy to subsidiary area boards. This plan is expected to be followed, but the Secretary of State for Energy is unlikely to retain the power he wanted of appointing the subsidiary board members.

Controversial clauses in the draft Bill on the relationship between the minister and the industry should be dealt with in the general Bill on the statutory powers of public corporations.

Changes in ministers' powers to intervene, as outlined in the White Paper, have been criticised by members of the boards of the industries themselves, in evidence to the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries.

The proposed Bill, however, is expected to give sponsoring ministers powers to give "specific directions" to the industries on questions of national interest. With such powers, ministers' powers at the moment are constrained to general directives, which are rarely used although there is much private arm-twisting.

An uneasy relationship, page 23

EEC warns America that countervailing duties on exports are threat to Geneva trade talks

From Michael Hurnby
Washington, Oct 17

Notice was served on the United States by the EEC today that the Community would refuse to conclude the current round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs) in Geneva so long as exports to America remained threatened by the imposition of countervailing duties.

This appears to mean that the MTNs are at risk of being prolonged beyond their December deadline.

Some member states urged immediate withdrawal from the negotiations to underline the EEC's extreme displeasure, but the majority view, shared by Mr Edmund Dell, Britain's Secretary of State for Trade, was that such a move would be precipitate.

However, although the EEC will continue to participate in the Geneva trade talks, Mr Dell and his colleagues made it clear that so long as the import tax threat remained the Community would be gravely hampered in bargaining on some of the key issues still outstanding.

Herr Klaus von Dohnanyi, Minister of State at the West German Foreign Office, and the current EEC president, said at a press conference: "No political trade-off can take place if the conditions for such a trade-off do not exist."

The EEC foreign affairs and trade ministers were reacting to the failure earlier this week of the American Congress to extend beyond next January 3 the President's waiver on the application of countervailing duties on subsidised imports into the United States.

The expiry of the waiver would lead to the automatic imposition of countervailing

duties on an estimated \$494m worth of EEC dairy exports to the United States. A much wider range of exports, including steel, could eventually be affected.

Congress will not reconvene before January 15 and Mr Dell, reporting to his colleagues on his talks earlier in the week in Washington, was understood to have been pessimistic about the chances of administrative action to extend the waiver in the meantime.

The threat to a successful conclusion of the MTNs only appears to be very serious, even though Congress could in theory pass legislation to extend the waiver by the end of next January.

It is acknowledged here that prolongation of the MTNs beyond the end of this year will reduce the chances of an increasingly protectionist Congress ever approving a final agreement.

For the moment, the EEC is less concerned about Congress's approval of measures which would exclude textile imports into the United States from any tariff reductions agreed in Geneva. The Community has reason to believe that President Carter will veto these provisions.

Frank Vogel writes in Washington. The Carter Administration is still intent upon concluding the negotiations which are taking place under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before the December 15 deadline set at the 30th economic summit conference in mid-July.

Mr Robert Strauss, the special American trade representative, has told European officials that if a final trade pact is

agreed by late November, he may well be able to ensure swift congressional ratification and ensure that the Congress extends the waiver on the imposition of countervailing duties as soon as it starts its new session next January 15.

Mr Strauss has apparently warned European officials, according to informed sources, that it might be difficult to obtain an extended waiver authority from Congress if the MTNs are not concluded before mid-January.

He has also stated that to ensure swift congressional approval of a new international trade agreement he would need at least four weeks to prepare the detailed legislation, and this could best be done before the new congressional session starts.

Further, the sources state that American officials have told EEC officials that there is little scope for using administrative measures to delay the imposition of countervailing duties in January.

For this reason, say the Americans, it is absolutely imperative that Congress acts on January 15 and this will only be possible if the Geneva talks are concluded well before then.

Mr Strauss will go to Europe next month for what he hopes will be the final and critical round of GATT negotiations. Yesterday he met Mr Dell, who then flew directly to Luxembourg for a meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers.

It is becoming increasingly apparent to all the parties to the GATT talks that agreement on a final pact is of the utmost urgency. Leading article, page 17

NEB winds up its tick facility for T & R

Executives of the National Enterprise Board have stopped the clock on the operations of T & R, the 200-year-old clockmaking company it acquired in May 1977. Instead of ticking happily and profitably into the export markets of the world with the aid of NEB funds, T & R has been clocking up losses, and management problems have clogged the works.

The state company has sustained a loss of close on £450,000 on its investment in the clockmaking company, but has found another potential revenue in the shape of F. W. Elliott, another quality clockmaker, who has paid £79,112 to take T & R off the NEB's shelf.

The purchase of 91 per cent of the equity of T & R was one of the board's first ventures into the smaller business field when the NEB was under the direction of Lord Ryder. That initial investment cost £240,000, but in the 11 months to the end of last year the company recorded a loss of £170,000.

During the year the company directed its main effort towards its new range of reproduction clocks. But delays in getting the range into production led to a loss of the main selling season—hence the loss. In March this year the NEB implemented a management change and injected a further £180,000, and by the end of the first half of the present financial year the investment had cost £477,000.

The enforced disposal of the company will undoubtedly be seized upon by Opposition MPs who are not enamoured of the NEB's activities, when they return to Parliament, particularly since they will be constantly reminded of the investment by the chimes of Big Ben, which is maintained by T & R. There are some rueful and embarrassed faces at the NEB. Privately, officials admit that the investment was a "big risk venture" although at the time Lord Ryder and his colleagues were confident of developing the company's export potential.

Basically the problem was that the company was just too small and had to depend on outside suppliers for most of its parts," explained one official.

It has admitted that the T & R venture had hardly been a spectacular success for the board's policy of attempting to prime the small sector of British business, and had been privately, officials admit that F. W. Elliott, who produced wood case clocks, will be able to make something of T & R. But with characteristic stiff upper lip, the NEB insists: "I am sure that shareholders with F. W. Elliott in the best interests of the company, its employees and of the British clock industry."

Peter Hill

Mr Callaghan facing a difficult task

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The increasingly contentious European Monetary System (EMS) is not the only item on the agenda for the Prime Minister's meetings in Bonn today and tomorrow with Herr Helmut Schmidt, West German Chancellor, it was emphasised in Whitehall last night after a long meeting of the Cabinet.

The British party for Bonn, which includes Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, as well as Mr Dennis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Dr David Owen, Foreign Secretary, intends raising British challenges over both common agricultural and fishery policies.

EMS looms large, however. Reportedly, it was not discussed at yesterday's Cabinet. But there is no denying confidence in high places that the Government will avert a crisis with the Labour Party over the issue.

Since it is accepted that a straight British entry into EMS on January 1 next year will provoke such a crisis with its out and out Labour opposition is being given that something less is being attempted.

How that, in turn, will avert a brush-off from Herr Schmidt, is not clear, but it was said in Whitehall that the West German Chancellor was not expecting Mr Callaghan to arrive this

afternoon with his mind made up. That is not necessary until the EEC December summit.

The idea of British Ministers in Bonn seeking an "EMS quid pro quo", insisting that it must have obvious benefits from joining, was not wholly accepted in Whitehall, although it is obvious that there has to be some such agreement.

Notable in these Whitehall quarters is the relief that it is no longer Britain alone but other EEC members who are raising questions over the proposed operation of the currency system. This was seen in Luxembourg on Monday and is added as evidence of EEC members coming Britain's way.

Mr Callaghan will be anxious to find out how the new system will differ from the present European float or "snake".

At the Pionice Ministers' meeting on Monday there was general agreement for the view expressed by Herr Labenstein, the German State Secretary in the Finance Ministry, that something better than the snake was needed.

Mr Callaghan will ask Herr Schmidt how he sees the scheme working in practical terms, and how far he is prepared to move his position on the numerical of the new system and the size of credits available.

The British do not want to join a scheme unless they are sure that the pound will be able to stay in for some time.

Mr Benn seeks closer Western links with Opec

By Our Energy Correspondent

Closer links between the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and Western oil-producing states such as Britain and Norway are being sought by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy.

By the New Year he hopes to have set up an informal group which would discuss long-term oil problems, he told a press conference yesterday.

It also was possible that an international conference of state oil companies, which would include the British National Oil Corporation, could be arranged.

He believed the barriers to discussion between Opec and the Western consumers were breaking down. It should be possible to involve the United Nations in discussions, including the United States, on East-West energy problems, and he had spoken twice to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, about it.

Mr Benn was outlining the decisions he would face during the coming year. The Energy Commission would meet on December 1 and discuss North Sea policy and a further Green Paper on energy would be published in the spring.

He intended to seek planning agreements with oil companies as a follow-up to participation already agreed. Depletion policy would be carried through by discussions with individual companies. It was impossible to anticipate what that policy should be for five years ahead.

Assurances of production which had been given would be honoured and Mr Benn saw no difficulty in negotiating output rates, if necessary, with companies every year or 18 months.

Surviving energy crisis, page 22

Dollar's decline boosts pound over \$2 briefly

By Caroline Alderson

The dollar plunged again on the foreign exchange markets yesterday and pushed the pound briefly above \$2 in the morning. The gold price soared to a record \$228.125 an ounce.

Sluggish sales came back and dealers reported that as soon as it neared the \$2 level sellers came in and the rate dropped again. It closed at \$1.9960.

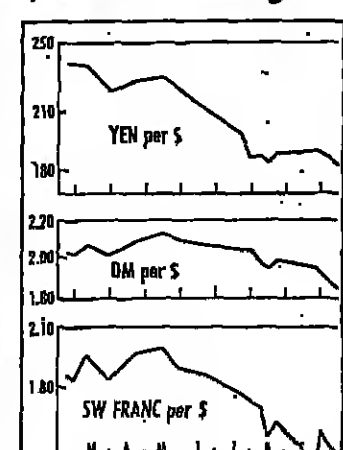
The Deutsche mark was to most demand and hence rose to 183.9. It has risen by touching DM1.329 during the day it closed at DM1.338, 11 pence higher than Monday's close.

It has now appreciated by 6 per cent against the dollar in the past three weeks. Dealers say that they expect the demand for marks to continue strong, and the dollar to stay weak for at least a few weeks.

Some official intervention to bolster the dollar was evident in most major currencies. The Western European Federal Bank did not provide very strong support, according to some dealers.

In New York the Fed was reported to have said that as what was happening was an orderly downward movement there was no need for official intervention.

The yen has moved back into the limelight in the last two days after a period of relative calm. It rose to 181.1 to the dollar



during trading yesterday, and finished at its best closing level of 181.7. Monday's close was 183.9. It has risen by nearly 21 per cent against the dollar since the end of last week.

Sterling lost some ground against currencies other than the dollar yesterday as it failed to break decisively through the \$2 barrier. Dealers thought that the Bank of England had stepped in at this level and that commercial holders were also selling sterling at this level.

Its effective rate index closed down 0.1 at 62.1 per cent of its end-1971 value yesterday.

Wall Street prices tumble

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Oct 17

The Dow Jones Industrial Average's top policy committee met today as share prices fell again on Wall Street, as the dollar continued to face pressure on the foreign exchange markets and as the government raised its treasury bond auction.

Wall Street closed today at 866.34, which is 8.83 down. Almost certainly the trend of inflation was the prime topic at the Opec Market Policy Committee meeting and its effect on currencies, currencies, and gold. Few people believe that the rate will drop below 8 per cent in the near future.

Yesterday saw the sharpest decline in almost four years in the Dow Jones average—almost 22 points. And the index fell more than 10 points in the first couple of hours.

But a flood of good third-quarter corporate results, coupled with the belief by some operators that the market may

have fallen too far, produced a modest rally by mid-day.

The general anxiety over currency rates, together with inflation, were seen by traders as the main reasons for the high bids at the gold auction. One dealer said that 800,000 ounces had been offered, compared with the 500,000 offered last time.

Offers from German and Swiss banks reached \$228.67 (about £114) an ounce.

The Fed's committee does not publish its decisions until 30 days after its meetings, but should it agree today to tighten credit conditions again this will swiftly become evident in the Fed's dealings in the money market.

Figures today from the Fed show that for the second month in a row industrial output rose by a fairly healthy 0.5 per cent in September to take the gain in industrial production over the past 12 months to 6.5 per cent.

Wall Street report, page 26

How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Ribban Road	12 1/2 to 13 1/2	BP	5p to 906p
Ennis T & Co	10p to 165p	Broken Hill	10p to 685p
Ennis & Co	6p to 165p	De Beers Ltd	10p to 390p
Empire Stores	6p to 165p	Hamerley	10p to 184p
Furness Withy	6p to 240p	Jardine Matheson	10p to 351p
GUS	6p to 318p	Libson	10p to 482p
J. Haggis	8p to 165p		
Metals	8p to 352p		
Moss Bros		MIM Hedges	
Moss Bros	7p to 127p	Moss Bros	7p to 127p
Moss Bros	4p to 52p	Moss Bros	4p to 52p
Moss Bros	4p to 332p	Moss Bros	4p to 332p
Moss Bros	4p to 305p	Moss Bros	4p to 305p
Moss Bros	4p to 260p	Moss Bros	4p to 260p
Moss Bros	15p to 230p	Moss Bros	15p to 230p
Moss Bros	5p to 232p	Moss Bros	5p to 232p
MIM Hedges		MIM Hedges	
MIM Hedges	7p to 127p	MIM Hedges	7p to 127p
MIM Hedges	4p to 52p	MIM Hedges	4p to 52p
MIM Hedges	4p to 332p	MIM Hedges	4p to 332p
MIM Hedges	4p to 305p	MIM Hedges	4p to 305p
MIM Hedges	4p to 260p	MIM Hedges	4p to 260p
MIM Hedges	15p to 230p	MIM Hedges	15p to 230p
MIM Hedges	5p to 232p	MIM Hedges	5p to 232p

The Times index: 219.78 +1.90
The FT index: 498.5 +3.9

THE POUND

Bank		Bank	
Bank	1.75	Bank	1.70
Bank	2.50	Bank	2.50
Bank	6.25	Bank	6.25
Bank	1.75	Bank	1.75
Bank	10.68	Bank	10.18
Bank	8.19	Bank	7.84
Bank	8.75	Bank	8.35
Bank	3.86	Bank	3.64
Bank	73.75	Bank	69.75
Bank	3.60	Bank	3.15
Bank	1670.00	Bank	1585.00
Bank	390.00	Bank	365.00
Bank	4.21	Bank	3.96
Bank	10.19	Bank	9.74
Bank	92.50	Bank	87.00
Bank	2.03	Bank	1.88
Bank	148.00	Bank	141.00
Bank	3.99	Bank	3.50
Bank	3.30	Bank	2.98
Bank	43.00	Bank	40.50

Gold gained \$3.71 an ounce in London. SDRs was 1.30597 on Tuesday. While SDR-E was 0.654490. Commodities: Rubber Index was at 1514.3 (previous 1516.5).

Reports pages 24 and 26

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Indicators again show upturn in September

The leading indicators for Britain's economy once again pointed to an upturn in September, providing the second month in which they had suggested stronger activity during 1979. However, the upturn in the longer leading indicators during September was heavily influenced by a swing of interest rates during the month, which has since been reversed under pressure from the United States. There was also some recovery in the Stock Exchange.

The longer leading indicators were pointing towards a downturn in the economy from October 1977 to July of this year. These generally show activity in the economy about a year ahead.

Although one or two month's figures provide a very unreliable guide to the economy, a long term trend in the indicators is usually accepted as the way things are likely to move.

No such pattern is apparent from the short-term indicators, which seeks to predict the economy about six months ahead. Their rise in August, following a decline in June.

The shorter leading indicators for September are not available.

Table, page 22

M & S profit up 40pc despite overseas losses

Marks and Spencer's profits increased by over 40 per cent in the six months to the end of September.

At home, the group benefited from buoyant sales of both textiles and food, with turnover in the latter, in particular, increasing by 22 per cent in the six months to the end of the High Street.

Financial Editor, page 23

Davignon hope on EEC steel

Most of West Europe's steel companies will become profitable again next year, according to Viscount Edouard Davignon, the EEC's Commissioner for Industry.

Speaking in Luxembourg, he said that the companies in the Community would have to obey the Commission's quota system on deliveries and keep prices to the minimum levels laid down by the EEC.

His forecasts of the industry's prospects will not be shared by many of the steel companies. Burnishing their image, page 23

Rumbles over auditors' dismissal

By Michael Prest

With barely a month to go before the Sime Darby annual general meeting at which the company will have to explain to shareholders its decision to dismiss its auditors, Turquand Youngs & Co., rumbles from institutional shareholders in London and individuals in the Far East suggest that the directors may have to do some hard talking.

The Sime report and accounts will be posted in about a week. Turquand will then have to decide, on the basis of what the Sime directors say about their audit, whether to send a circular to shareholders. If the document is brief, in the nature of a letter, it can be prepared and sent at Sime's expense. But if it is more weighty like, say,

a takeover document, the auditors may have to bear the cost of preparation.

Among the leading United Kingdom shareholders in Sime Darby are the Ciba-Geigy pension fund (£60,000 shares), British Law Insurance, a subsidiary of Sun Alliance which acts as a trustee (£240,000), and Ditton Investments, of Thames Ditton in Surrey (£20,000). There also are 452,500 shares registered in Kuala Lumpur in the name of Prudential Assurance.

Sentiment among fund managers in the United Kingdom seems to be that there is an obvious reason for the switch of auditors, and that they will have to be convinced the change is good for Sime. Most, however, are reserving judg-

ment until the report and accounts are published.

Individual shareholders in the Far East are not so patient, however. In a letter to the Business Times of Singapore, Mr Kenneth Chew declared: "I am sure that shareholders share my view that to change auditors simply because of the need to have 'bigness' is a lame excuse." And, indeed, his view is echoed by other correspondents, who challenge the Sime board to offer good reasons for the proposed change.

One of the biggest holders of Sime shares in the Far East is Great Eastern Life Assurance, which has 6.3 million shares on the register in Singapore and 8.6 million in Kuala Lumpur.

BARR AND WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST LIMITED

Interim report for seven months ended 31st July 1978.

	7 months 1978	7 months 1977	12 months 1977
TURNOVER	33,997,000	26,639,000	47,588,000
DIVISIONAL PROFITS			
Holidays Division	683,135	453,486	934,019
Moto Division	402,751	342,132	582,912
Computer Bureau Division	224,101	167,597	304,585
Deduct Parent Company Interest and Expenses Less other Income	1,308,997	993,205	1,721,416
Profit before tax	1,231,861	902,390	1,595,292
Taxation Estimated	415,000	259,000	454,552
Profit after tax	916,861	644,390	1,140,730
Earnings per Ordinary Share of 25p	20.71p	16.33p	29.80p

Chairman, J. Malcolm Barr, states:

"For the year I anticipate a profit approximately 25% to 30% better than 1977. A scrip issue is to be proposed."

Show ban on Ford to continue

By Clifford Webb

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday rejected an appeal by Ford to lift the "blacking" of its cars and commercial vehicles for display at the Birmingham International Motor Show.

A Ford spokesman said last night: "It is a great pity the union would not agree to lift their ban while the current pay talks continue. As a result the British market leader in cars and commercial vehicles will have wonderful stands but no products: the biggest motor show ever seen in this country."

When the international press arrive at the National Exhibition Centre today they will find plenty of embarrassed salesmen on the Ford stands but no vehicles.

Company chiefs will meet at the centre today to decide whether or not to retain their full staff throughout the show which opens to the public on Friday.

A last minute reprieve could still result in some cars being brought from "hiding" nearby and put on display.

Haulage studies find no need for change

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

No major changes in Britain's road haulage industry are expected as a result of two government inquiries — by the Price Commission and the Foster Committee — whose reports are expected in the next few weeks.

Both give approval to an industry whose liberal licensing system is said to have led to undue fragmentation, "cowboy" operators, and unstable competition, leading to depressed rates and an unduly high level of bankruptcies.

The Price Commission inquiry, appointed by the Government after some Midlands hauliers broke pay guidelines last year, finds that while costs and profits vary widely among hauliers there is no significant area of abuse.

Cutback on India trouser imports

Imports of woven trousers from India are to be cut severely after a sharp rise in shipments over the past two years.

The Department of Trade last night announced a ceiling of 110,000 pieces for this year, the first eight months of this year imports totalled 94,000 pieces. Last year the figure was 165,000 compared with 50,000 in 1976.

The department said the quota was not included in last year's EEC textile agreement with India. The decision to impose the new quota was made after representations from the United Kingdom to the Commission.

Crucial decision by BL Cars group not to go out in support

SU toolmakers may end strike

By Clifford Webb

The 11-week-old strike by toolmakers at SU Fuel Systems appears to have collapsed. The 33 strikers are expected to vote for a return to work when they meet today.

This move comes after yesterday's decision by BL Cars' unofficial toolroom committee, led by Mr Roy Fraser, to defer strike action by 3,000 toolmakers in support of the SU men's claim for parity.

Some of the SU men lobbied yesterday's meeting. Afterwards they complained angrily that they had been let down and "could no longer carry the banner" on their own. "We have no alternative but to go back," one of them said.

But Mr George Regan, their leader, who is also a member of Mr Fraser's committee, would only say: "There will be a recommendation put to a meeting of the SU toolmakers tomorrow. I am not prepared to say what that is."

If the strike ends today, it will be a bitter blow to Mr Fraser in his long battle with his union on the one hand and BL management on the other. When the national executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers voted to expel the SU men for taking unofficial action and refusing to meet the district committee, it gave Mr Fraser the cause célèbre he had been looking for.

There is little doubt that BL toolmakers would have walked out in large numbers in sympathy with their SU colleagues if the union had pressed ahead with the expulsions.

However, by deferring action, union leaders put Mr Fraser in a very exposed position. Since then, his support has waned. Some plants have even held meetings to oppose him.

The final blow came from management. Unofficial reports stemming from BL Cars' Joint Negotiating Committee, suggest that in recent negotiations the company has agreed to create a five-grade pay structure instead of the four originally proposed. The additional grade is being created to cover top-level skilled workers, including toolmakers.

This will go a long way towards meeting the toolmakers' demands for the restoration of skilled differentials and parity throughout the company.

Oil chief's five steps to survive energy crisis

New York, October 17.—An

"enormous amount" remained to be done if the world was to survive the severe energy crisis forecast by some commentators for the late 1980s, Sir David Steel, chairman of British Petroleum, told businessmen today.

Speaking to the British-American Chamber of Commerce he spelled out five specific areas of action.

There must be sufficient economic incentive to invest in alternative energy sources and in energy conservation and efficiency. An environment was required where the terms set by Government were stable and gave reasonable prospects of returns to the investor.

Governments must avoid over-regulation.

A balance was needed between environmental concern and energy development.

The oil producing countries needed economic and political incentives to relax self-imposed production limits. In the near future, while longer term alternatives were developed.

The United States and some other countries must alter policies that prevented domestic oil and gas prices rising to world levels.

Sir David said: "When I talk of incentives I am talking about price increases. But let us look at this in the right context."

"A price increase, to be significant, would presuppose a requirement to be more than sufficient to offset the erosion of the crude price in real terms (which since 1974 has been at least 20 per cent) and enough to activate development projects for new OECD non-oil supplies, and for energy-saving investment."

"We may, therefore, be talking of money increases over the next five years of the order of maybe 30 per cent. This order of increase over a five year period should certainly not endanger our economies and is far from the 'doubling in real terms'."

"All the trends I have described would be reinforced if there were price increases along these lines."

"These would encourage oil producing countries to relax their self-imposed production limits, much depends on Saudi Arabia policy and the way it balances the needs of other Opec members for revenue against its desire to avoid disrupting the world economic balance."

"Such price increases would also help to unblock the policies, especially in the United States, which prevent internal prices from rising to world levels."

BP's relationship with Government strained

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Relations between the Department of Energy and British Petroleum have become strained over differences on policy relating to international business affairs.

It is felt that the special relationship between the Government and BP is unsatisfactory. This may have provided the background to the acceptance by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, of a motion at the Labour Party's conference at Brighton calling for the company's nationalization.

Links between the Government and BP go back to 1914 when Sir Winston Churchill bought into the company to safeguard oil supplies for the Royal Navy. Two Government representatives now sit on the BP board and the Treasury holds a 51 per cent stake.

The relationship between Government and BP was settled in exchanges known as the Bradbury/Bridges correspondence. These left BP as a commercial company which would consult the government over matters impinging on foreign policy.

It is this arrangement which has caused the problems. Mr Benn is thought to feel it might work better if the Energy Ministry, rather than the Treasury, held the shares.

Specifically the department complains that BP failed to consult it until 24 hours before the announcement of a deal to take over Veba interests in West Germany; that BP made arrangements with the French over drilling in the South-west approaches without consultation; made payments to Italian politicians, and undermined the British position on EEC refinery policy.

On top of that, there were the disclosures in the Bingham report concerning the supplying of oil to Rhodesia in defiance of sanctions.

Mr Benn is understood to be thinking of ways of making the Bradbury/Bridges guidelines more effective.

Michael Bailey writes: Oil and petrol prices will start to rise again in real terms "very soon". Sir Nevil Maccready, managing director of Mobil Oil, said yesterday.

The temporary glut in world oil supplies and surplus refining capacity since the 1974 crisis had caused oil fuel prices to fall, he told the Road Haulage Association in Eastbourne. But with continued heavy investment by the oil industry and rising demand for products—nearly 7 per cent for petrol and 3 per cent for diesel in the United Kingdom so far this year—prices undoubtedly would start to rise again shortly.

CYCLICAL INDICATORS FOR THE UK ECONOMY

The following table is based on the GSO corporate indices of the business cycle in the United Kingdom published yesterday:

	Longer leading (4 indicators)	Shorter leading (5 indicators)	Coincident (6 indicators)	Lagging (5 indicators)
1977				
Oct	113.6	114.3	102.6	91.4
Nov	111.6	114.0	103.3	91.9
Dec	110.0	115.8	104.0	92.8
1978				
Jan	109.0	117.2	105.0	93.6
Feb	108.4	118.7	105.4	94.5
March	106.0	117.5	107.1	95.6
April	103.9	116.4	108.6	96.8
May	101.5	114.9	110.5	98.2
June	100.3	114.5	111.4	98.8
July	99.8	115.5	113.3	98.9
Aug	100.4	116.0	114.7	98.9
Sept	101.2	—	—	100.4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How UK is playing fair with fish

From the President of the

British Fishing Federation

Sir, The heading "EEC fisheries policy" is Britain playing fair? is a supreme irony for the fishing industry.

The short answer is: "Yes". The irony is that this is a game where the traditional British rules of equity and fair play do not apply. It was rigged from the outset when the original Six cobbled together a common fisheries policy designed to give them enormous benefits at the expense of the incoming coastal states.

One of these, Norway, did not like the rules of the EEC's fisheries game and opted out. We, having gone in, are simply trying to amend the rules to ensure fair play and fair shares.

Continental cynicism can, if it so wishes, interpret Mr Silkin's attitude as a political move to win favour in British coastal constituencies; but as far as fishermen are concerned the stakes are far higher than the political colour of marginal fishing port seats.

It's the future we are playing for—continental fishermen's as well as our own.

Accustomed as we are to dealing with non-partisan British civil servants we must share the minister's concern over the importance of intervention of a commission official.

That's another twist in the rules that falls outside our concept of fair play.

If political manoeuvring is the subject we must record the suspicion of self-interest we have long held in this respect. As we have frequently pointed out, fish is the only resource over which the Community claims an overriding power—and the administration of that power is not enjoyed in any other sphere of Community activity.

So far as the fabricated indignation over the Murren Fishery is concerned, that truly must be a red herring in the classic tradition. The provision of a mere 400 tonnes for a small coastal community is insignificant in the context of the real issues of conservation which the rest of the Community persistently refuse to face. What we want to tackle is the hundreds of thousands of tonnes that are indiscriminately caught by the destructive use of small mesh nets that deny immature fish the chance to grow and reproduce for the benefit of future generations of all fishermen.

As the very necessary herring conservation measures have been linked with the Hague resolution providing for a cutting of the Irish catch, it might point out that the fact that Mr Silkin has not mentioned that increase does not mean that he, or Britain, opposes it. In fact British fishermen are only too pleased to see their Irish counterparts grow and flourish.

At the same time the Hague resolution did not specify that the Irish growth should be at the expense of British fishermen or, more importantly, the future of the fish stocks.

Moreover, despite what Irish politicians (and commission officials) might say the Irish fishermen are very well aware of what their own national resource contributes to the EEC total, with more than 60 per cent of the fish being within Britain's 200-mile maritime limits and a further 20 per cent or more in Ireland's.

Britain is playing fair by the fish and playing fair by the future. If the game is not going the way the EEC (and also, it would seem, its civil servants) wish, might it not be, as we have been saying for so long, that the rules were unfair to begin with?

Yours faithfully,

M. J. PRIDEN
President
British Fishing Federation
Trinity House Chamber,
12 Trinity House Lane,
Rull,
North Humberston HU12 2JF
October 12.

Spick and span at Paris Motor Show

From Mr Harry Cressman

Sir, With reference to your Business Diary column of October 10 re the Paris Motor Show. Many members of the press and motor industry were touring the exhibition on Wednesday, October 4, which was a "build day". The show officially opened to the press on Thursday morning, October 5, and to the public in the afternoon.

I was in the exhibition at 8.30 on October 5 and did a quick tour of the halls. I did not see a single stand not completely and furthermore not a sign of any rubbish in the gangways. In fact, the overnight change from Wednesday was a miracle of organization.

It only remains to be seen if we can emulate the French and have a spick and span motor show in present Britain in a favourable light to the world's motoring press.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY CRESSMAN,
Chairman,
BSG International Limited,
Burgess House,
1270 Coventry Road,
Yardley,
Birmingham, B25 8BB.
October 12.

Rise in house prices

From Mr Robert McCrindle,

MP for Brentwood and Ongar

(Conservative)

Sir, In reporting that house prices have risen by 21 per cent on average over the past year, you quote the secretary general of the Building Societies Association as saying that the situation is worrying. Certainly, it is always unfortunate if the prospective buyer has to pay more but could it be that house prices are reflecting the pent-up demand allied to the marginally increased standard of living and that they are indeed finding the level people are prepared to pay?

Is there not also an argument for saying that the cash pur-

chaser has been bidding up prices in the knowledge that the building societies, having been obliged to reduce their lending, now have a waiting list of some three to four months. In these circumstances, is not the Government's action proving to have been ineffective in bidding down prices and responsible for the growing queue of mortgage applications?

Perhaps this is a classic example of government interference in a free market, achieving precisely the opposite effect of that intended.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT MCCRINDLE,
House of Commons,
London, SW1.

Traded options taxation

From the Chairman of the

Traded Options Committee

Sir, I will not attempt to dispel a number of misconceptions in Alison Mitchell's article on traded options tax treatment (October 13).

I must, however, correct at least one important error of fact in that article and say that I have never felt that the reversal of the current tax

position presented "little hope for a reversal". I have always considered that the established fairness of the arguments for a change will eventually prevail.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. STEVENS,
Chairman,
Traded Options Committee,
The Stock Exchange,
London, EC2N 1HP,
October 13.

Debts from prewar China

From Mr G. K. Tyrrell

Sir, In the financial column of October 6 there was an article about a trade mission to China which is about to leave this country.

The members are undoubtedly leaders in their own sphere of activity and as such should be well aware that China are in default on all the bonds they issued prior to the last war. Surely the mission should not be a party to providing new credits to the Bank of China for

on-lending to Chinese nationals unless the Government of China at least acknowledges responsibility for these prewar debts and perhaps writing into the terms of any new credit lines terms of repayment for their prewar indebtedness.

Yours truly,
G. K. TYRRELL,
17 Park Court,
27 Linkfield Lane,
Redhill,
Surrey, RH1 1JG.
October 7.

Demolition of prestressed concrete

From Professor A. J. Harris

Sir, The demolition of any major structure needs the help of an experienced chartered engineer; given that help, the presence in the structure of prestressed concrete entails no special hazards.

It would be a pity if the imposition by the City of London of special regulations for pre-

stressed concrete structures should result in discouraging the use of a well-tried and valuable structural technique.

Yours truly,
A. J. HARRIS,
President,
The Institution of Structural Engineers,
11 Upper Belgrave Street,
London, SW1.

Designing heavy lorries

From Mr Patrick M. Kennett

Sir, It is a pity that Mr J. V. Waterford's letter "Designing a less damaging lorry" (October 12), did not include his qualifications and appointment, for without those his views merely add to the hundreds of published items of uninformed layman's claptrap on the highly-specialised subject of truck design and operation.

The arguments about axle weights and taxation have been going on for years, both here and in Brussels, and any eventual decision will almost certainly be a politically-orientated compromise, with scant regard to the engineering, economic or environmental facts of the matter.

The point is that once a firm common structure of weights and dimensions is agreed, legislated for, and given a life expectancy of at least eight or 10 years, the engineers would be in a position to apply their considerable talents to building trucks that are socially acceptable as regards noise, safety, road wear and so on, as well as economically acceptable in keeping to a minimum the transport-cost content of goods for our shops and industry.

Until such time, their efforts are inevitably fragmented and dissipated by the need to build to a variety of different specifications to suit individual markets, and that forces production compromises which are far too broad for comfort, particularly in the areas of axles, suspension and braking, but also in engines and transmissions. Managers of any large truck builders will tell you that around 40 per cent of their entire effort and budget in engineering goes into catering for innumerable differences in legislation requirements in different markets.

On dimensions Mr Waterford is a long way off-track. The only size structure resembling his figures is to be found in the United States where conditions bear no relationship to Europe. The European operators and

manufacturers are quite happy with the existing 2.5 metre wide and 4.0 metre height limits. Any increases would, respectfully, render obsolete the entire European unit load handling system which is built round ISO standards for containers, and effectively ban the majority of trucks from European motorways with their thousands of 4.0x1.1m bridges.

The call for a legal increase in length for an articulated truck from the current 15m to something like 15.5m is well founded. With that extra 15 inches or so, the existing 40-ton ISO unit load (which is not going to get any larger, just a little heavier) could be accommodated on the truck with better axle weight distribution, and better relationship between load, coupling, and cab unit, all of which would contribute appreciably to the stability and safety which we all agree is of paramount importance.

Might I add that despite the assertion that the heavy goods vehicle is "dangerous", MOT/DTP records show that the heavy truck has a better accident-per-million-vehicle-miles record than any other class of road user, and moreover that record has steadily improved over the last 12 years.

Nobody would claim that the heavy truck is totally safe: who these days? It is, however, a great deal safer than many people imagine, and could be made a lot safer still if engineers and designers were free to ply their skills without undue interference from a maze of conflicting and often unnecessary regulations.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK M. KENNETT,
Managing Director, Transport Know-How Ltd,
Edin, Trucks,
Old Ford Lodge,
Ogston,
Higham,
Derbyshire DE5 6EL,
October 12.

Marks & Spencer

The unaudited trading results of the Group for the first half of the financial year ending 31st March 1979 are announced as follows:—

26 Weeks Ended:			
30th Sept. 1978 1st Oct. 1977. Inc/(Dec)			
SALES (excluding Sales Taxes)	£000	£000	%
UK stores:			
Clothing and other merchandise	433,100	356,494	21.5
Foods	205,191	167,893	22.2
Direct Export sales outside the Group	13,200	16,556	(20.3)
	651,491	540,943	20.4
Overseas stores:			
Europe	10,539	8,149	29.3
Canada	26,155	30,022	(12.9)
TOTAL GROUP SALES	688,185	579,114	18.8

PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

	£000	£000	%
UK (Before Profit Sharing)	76,261	55,277	38.0
Europe	loss (482)	loss (479)	
Canada	loss (2,835)	loss (2,783)	

GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

	£000	£000	%
TAXATION UK	34,300	24,700	
Overseas	10	(217)	
	34,310	24,483	
GROUP PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	38,634	27,532	40.2

NET PROFIT AFTER TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO MARKS & SPENCER LIMITED

	£000	£000	%
Loss attributable to minority interests	1,176	1,065	
NET PROFIT AFTER TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO MARKS & SPENCER LIMITED	39,810	28,597	39.2
Earnings per Share (Pence)	3.06p	2.20p*	

*The earnings and dividends per share figures for last year have been adjusted to take account of the scrip issue made in August 1978.

St Michael



The sales comparisons in Canada have been distorted by exchange rates, which are materially different from last year. Expressed in Canadian dollars, sales in Canada have increased by 7%. Trading in the Marks and Spencer Division has shown a considerable improvement over the same period last year. Whilst we are opening new stores in suitable shopping malls, it has been necessary to bear the costs of a number of closures in unsuitable locations and to provide for the expected cost of some further closures which will take place in the future. The total of such costs amounted to £1,118,000 and was charged during the half year. The other two trading divisions — Peoples and D'Alairds — continue to show good progress.

We expect to be able to increase substantially our dividends for the year. The Directors have accordingly declared an interim dividend of 1.15 pence per share, costing £14,946,000, compared with 0.85 pence last year, costing £11,033,000. Together with its associated tax credit, this represents an equivalent gross amount of 1.7164 pence per share compared with 1.2879 pence last year, an increase of 33%.

The interim dividend will be paid on 12th January 1979 to shareholders whose names are on the Register of Members at the close of business on 17th November 1978.

MARKS & SPENCER

Your family is our business

هكذا من الإيميل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Marks and Spencer makes hay at home

half year to the end of September had a period of remarkable buoyancy in sales; but the growth in Marks & Spencer's United Kingdom turnover has been more remarkable still. Textile sales rose by 21.5 per cent, of which some 10 per cent reflected price inflation; and sales, notwithstanding the High Street war, rose by 22.2 per cent to put the company in line for the title of one of the fastest growing of the United Kingdom's food retailers. These gains were generated out of an increase in sales of 10 per cent over that in 1977, so it is not surprising that the company's overall profits are very much the better, pre-tax profits showing a 40.2 per cent increase to £72.9m.

If the same, it has not been roses all way. Europe is still making losses (admittedly after exceptional losses of £976,000 relating to the reduction of footage in Lyons and in Paris); and Canada is



Marcus Stelf, chairman of Marks and Spencer

In the red, too, although the extent of the downturn is disguised by parity changes. Each case there are hopes of improvement "soon": effectively, though, Marks & Spencer has yet to prove itself in these markets. The question for investors is whether that is the longer-term it must: the occasional introduction of new stores at home (wine, and more recently, food), sooner rather than later Marks & Spencer is going to saturate the United Kingdom market. Still, while the company produces so much growth at home the question which arises is how that will be. Assuming that the Government manages to hold the line on pay, but that the rate of inflation starts to accelerate next year, would not be all that long; or even Marks & Spencer is immune to checks in the world of retail spending. The company could make £160m pre-tax quite comfortably this year, and the promise of a "substantial" increase in the dividend implies a yield of at least 5 per cent at 86p. But if buoyancy in retail sales that has fired its growth is off, and there is a recession in the way of a contribution from overseas to replace it, that would not prevent shares from suffering a period of relative underperformance.

Furness Withy riding the recession

In comparison with P & O and Ocean, Furness Withy's first half figures are impressive. Pre-tax profits are, admittedly, down from £13.3m to £5.8m, but the damage is done from associates—partly OCL but more particularly Kingsnorth Marine Drilling and Ore Carriers which made losses—rather than from lower ship sale profits than from Furness's own trading, which emerged as a surprising £500,000 higher. Bulk shipping and chartering turned in modest losses but general shipping and Manchester Liners both managed to nudge profits ahead, despite the adverse circumstances. Where P & O has proved vulnerable in the Middle East and Ocean in the West Africa trades, Furness's strength in North and South America and its generally broad base in the liner trades have enabled it to ride through the shipping recession relatively unharmed. The offshore investments, meanwhile, are paying off handsomely with a £1.3m swing-round to a profit of £1m. Investment income is down and interest payments are up, reflecting the continued high investment in ships, but the big £100m spending programme comes to an end next year and thereafter the balance sheet should strengthen progressively.

Furness's resilience could prove to be crucial ammunition. Eurocanadian, with 20 per cent, must divest at least half of that before the end of 1979. A further 20 per cent or so is apparently spoken for by merchant bank Sea Brothers as a bid is an obvious possibility. It is indeed, already implicit in the shares at 240p, selling at over 10 times earnings assuming £12m profit for the year. With recent reorganization benefits feeding through Furness could be good for growth of a quarter next year and the timing looks good. The question of course is whether European Ferries, with 5 per cent of Furness, could do better.

Brooke Bond Liebig Expansion plans

Brooke Bond Liebig's results give a clear enough indication of recent turmoil in the tea market. After a gain of almost two-fifths at the interim stage final profits are down 16 per cent to £41.7m—excluding a £3m disposals surplus. But the outcome was rather better than some feared and the shares gained a penny to 49p.

With overseas results flat, the downturn has been in the UK. Coming to terms with the collapse in tea prices and the trading hiatus caused by the Price Commission's intervention cut profits by around £7m to £16m.

In volume terms Brooke Bond has probably suffered worse than its rival, Lyons, by surrendering market share mainly to own-label rather than degrading its premium brands. Now with auction prices at less than half the 230p a kilo reached early last year there are strong hopes that equilibrium has at last returned to the market and that prices and consumption will start moving upwards although much still depends on the quality of the crucial North India crop.

More importantly from Brooke Bond's point of view is the fact that the boom and consequent slump have helped completely transform the balance sheet. With the cash release from stocks, which incidentally would replace a previous year's CCA cost of sales adjustment deficit of £42m with a credit of over £10m, BBL has been able to cut gearing from around 36 per cent to just over 20 per cent while retaining high liquidity. It could, for example, take a US acquisition of up to \$50m in its stride, while the group has not given up hope about coming to a compromise with the Australian government over its blocked £21m takeover bid of tea and coffee group, Bushells.

Meanwhile, prospects of some recovery in the UK compensating for deterioration in plantation results suggest a similar profits outcome for the current year. The shares are on a p/e ratio of around 6 and yield 9.3 per cent and solidly supported, though they could remain in the doldrums until expansion plans take shape.

Short-term money market rates were up by a quarter point or more again yesterday and the view that the authorities will not want to let Minimum Lending Rate rise at least until next month is rapidly giving way to the feeling that they may have no choice but to lift it by a point or more this Thursday. There is, however, much confusion about the Bank of England's intentions. Last Friday the discount houses were fully expecting to be reined back on rates at the Treasury bill tender, and when they were not they promptly bid rates up in the belief that the Bank was prepared to see them higher. That, more than anything else, explains this week's rapid rise in short-term rates.

The houses are holding unusually large amounts of paper, just now and, indeed, may be very close to their maximum permitted levels. Anxious to reduce commitments they have been pushing rates higher in the hope of attracting buyers but so far to no avail. One school argues that if the Bank holds MLR unchanged this week, thereby demonstrating it does not want rates higher, the investors who are presently in the overnight market would begin to buy bills and short rates would go down as fast as they have gone up.

Local authority yearling bond rates, meanwhile, are up to 11 per cent this week from 10½ per cent, the highest level for 18 months. Except for high demand (for instance, from building societies) and relatively low weekly issue volumes in recent weeks, moreover, the rate could be a half point or more higher.

Business Diary: Credit where credit is due

Only 60-odd shopping days in Christmas and yet, I hear, Santa's little helpers are already working on one present for the business community.

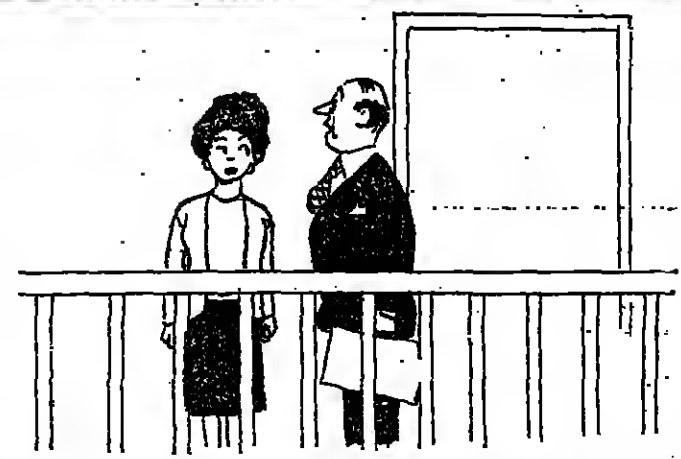
My spies in Greenland tell me that a gift-wrapped decision from the Office of Fair Trading is on the way for Lord Barber, the chairman of Standard Chartered Bank. It will say whether or not OFT's director-general, Gordon Borrie, is granting a consumer credit licence to two companies within the Sir Julius Hodge group that Standard Chartered bought out five years ago.

Last August the OFT said that it was "minded to refuse" applications for consumer credit licences from Hodge Finance and from Sir Julius S. Hodge, a Cardiff bank.

Two weeks ago Standard Chartered announced the retirement of Sir Julius and the departure of a number of Hodge executives, although the relevance of their going was made clear neither by OFT nor Standard Chartered.

Whether or not the OFT decision will go in Standard Chartered's favour I would not dream of saying (why spoil a "surprise") except to add that it would be decidedly convenient to all concerned if the answer were to be a "Yes".

In announcing Sir Julius's departure earlier this month Lord Barber forbore to say who the new chairman of the Hodge group board would be. Sir Julius's successor is to be named "within the next few months". How absolutely, rivetingly super it would be for all con-



"Let him read all he wants about the boycott controversy, but try to keep him away from news about Opec's threat to increase their prices by 5 or 10 per cent next year."

ceroed if the "yes" decision were to come from the OFT just as Lord Barber (Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber as was) announced which Standard Chartered apparently is to take over from Sir Julius as Hodge chairman.

Steelworkers are being asked to make their wills. This is not due to some devilish twist of the Department of Industry's policy of running down the British Steel Corporation. The BSC's pension fund is holding about £200m in unclaimed death benefits because employees and pensioners keep dying off intestate.

Parliament has been at some pains this year to find a solution to the problem of the relationship between government and nationalized industries.

In April a White Paper put forward proposals "designed to reconcile the purposes of public ownership with the independence needed for vigorous and enterprising management; and to ensure that the nationalized industries employ resources efficiently to the benefit of the whole community".

The same month a draft Bill on the electricity supply industry showed in detail how these proposals would look when included in legislation. The duties of the corporations would be enlarged and the powers of government to intervene greatly increased.

The White Paper unashamedly attempts to bring intervention out in the open. "It is wrong in principle," the document states, "that a minister cannot statutorily intervene in specific matters of major importance subject to the approval of Parliament."

Such intervention is considered "entirely appropriate" by the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries, which in a report last month on the draft electricity Bill elaborated how parliamentary scrutiny could work.

A good deal less enthusiasm is being shown by state industry chiefs themselves, who in memoranda to the select committee published this week, blew a blast of cold air over the idea of specific powers of direction for sponsoring ministers.

The White Paper and the draft Bill are genuine attempts to give more power to ministers and to bring the exercise of that power into the open. Until now the sponsoring minister has been able to give only directions of a general character on matters appearing to him to affect the national interest and to direct on particular subjects—an uncontroversial nature—which are specified in the enabling statutes.

This has had two effects. First, a "general" power, which is couched in the vaguest of terms in the various statutes establishing state enterprises—has very rarely been used. In 1952 a Conservative minister of transport used it to stop London bus fares rising and in 1971 Mr Christopher Patten used it to bring to heel Lord Hall, chairman of the Post Office.

Secondly, the lack of any statutorily backed powers of intervention other than this to deal with matters deemed politically important has led to what Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has described as "an appalling record of private arm twisting".

Mr Benn would have to look no further than his own department for examples. Last year he wished to order the second Drax power station to the face of electricity board disapproval. Unable to issue a specific direction on this matter he became embroiled in a

long drawn out wrangle with the board in which he eventually emerged the victor, but only after an enormous amount of bad feeling had been generated and the Government had promised to embody compensation provisions in the Bill to reorganize the electricity industry.

Having examined the breakdown of relations between government and state enterprises, Parliament could have moved to make a greater separation of the executive and the nationalized industries. (One experiment in distancing the government from public sector industry is, after all, well established in the form of the National Enterprise Board, though this particular model would hardly be appropriate in the nationalized industries.) Instead, Parliament has decided

to define more precisely the circumstances in which intervention should be permitted. At the same time it wants to increase parliamentary scrutiny by making directions through statutory instrument subject to approval by the Commons. If the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries has its way, it will investigate any directions before they are implemented.

The roots of the present troubled relationships between government and state enterprises are to be found in the manner in which public ownership has developed. Politicians have been enrolled in the dialectic of nationalization since the last century, when already there were demands for the nationalization of railways, land and coal mines. But for most people the public ownership debate has been identified with the man, Herbert Morrison, and the post-war Labour Government. The Bank of England was nationalized—a largely symbolic gesture since that institution had long since ceased to act as a private profit-making body—and was followed by coal, the railways, road haulage, canals and docks.

Electricity generation and distribution were put under a central authority in 1943 and the gas industry entered the public domain in 1949. The Iron and Steel Act received the Royal Assent in 1949.

The National Economic Development Office, study of nationalized industries, which was published in 1976 and sparked off much of the present debate, identified four

pricing policy investment criteria and financial objectives were introduced. But the original principles of control have remained (at least formally) the bedrock on which government-state enterprise relations have rested.

These statutory provisions were part of an attempt to translate into legislative form the concept of public ownership. The problem is that a central feature of the public ownership idea—that the various enterprises should operate "at arm's length" from the Government—has proved extraordinarily difficult to put into practice.

This principle went hand in hand with an almost metaphysical belief by the Labour Party that, although working at arm's length, there would be an empathy between Government and state enterprises such that both would share a common view of what constituted "the national interest". The statutory basis for control remained pretty well unaltered between 1946 and the mid-1970s but in these 30 years it became increasingly clear that the "ideology of interest" doctrine was coming under severe strain.

Some of the statutory powers were very flexible and could be used (sometimes misused) to bolster this principle. The minister's Power of Appointment is an example. Thus the appointment of Lord Glenamara (formerly Mr Edward Short, Leader of the House of Commons) as chairman of Cable and Wireless, might be seen as an attempt to help establish a common view

between the Government and that corporation, although his harsh words about the Government's treatment of state industry board's pay has caused a breach.

A highly controversial appointment—which it must be assumed was really the handiwork of the then Mr Harold Wilson, Prime Minister at the time—was the 1967 transfer of Lord Hill of Luton from the chairmanship of the Independent Television Authority to the corresponding post at the BBC, a move which was read as a slap in the face for a corporation which had been mightily disliking the Government.

It has become clear, however, that powers such as these are limited and have been insufficient to stop the deterioration in relations between government and state industries.

Later the same year Sir Arthur Hawkins, who had been assumed the mantle of chief critic, was told by Mr Benn that he would not be reappointed as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Sir Arthur, who had bluntly told the running of state industries could not be safely placed in the hands of politicians or civil servants, had tried since his appointment in 1972 to prevent the Government finding excuses on electricity generation policy.

By the mid-Seventies interventionism was finding itself enshrined in legislation. The 1974 Railways Act gave the Government much greater powers to intervene in policy-making—a *quid pro quo* for heavily increased financial support.

But the most clearly interventionist piece of legislation was the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act 1975 which set up the British National Oil Corporation. The sponsoring minister has overriding control of BNOC policies and is given power to give either general or specific directions "as the Secretary of State thinks fit".

Parliament now has a choice. It can either attempt to stop ministerial interference with the commercial operations of the nationalized industries or it can legitimize that interference under strict Parliamentary controls.

In one form or another, something of a Hobson's choice, putting up further bars to interference may simply encourage ministers to be even more devious in "arm twisting". On the other hand, the proposal for more parliamentary scrutiny put up by the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries in its report last month could also backfire.

Subjecting suggested ministerial interventions—which are already based heavily on political considerations—to prior scrutiny could have the effect of making ministers more circumspect in their interference. But it might simply drive them to seek more effective "private" means of getting their way.

Lord Melchett, the then chairman of the British Steel Corporation and a resolute champion of "commercialization", was one of the first to see the full weight of the Government's "persuasive" powers when in the early 1970s a joint steering group of BSC personnel and civil servants was set up, ostensibly to help the corporation over its financial problems. In fact, the group, which was chaired by a senior civil servant, began to cut the ground from under Lord Melchett's feet and was felt by the board to be usurping its functions.

His successor, Sir Mony Finlayson, also came under great pressure and responded to "arm twisting" over the corporation's long-term development plan by publicly reprimanding the Government for interference in the industry. Appearing before the

Select Committee on Nationalized Industries early in 1976 to answer questions on the corporation's annual report, Sir Mony blamed the Government for delaying implementation of the plan and interfering in its policies.

Two months later Mr Eric Varley, the sponsoring minister, informed Sir Mony that he would not be renewing his contract, which lapsed in September.

Mid-March, 1976, was a bad time for state industry-Government relations. On the same day that Mr Varley told Sir Mony that he would be losing his job, British Rail's Sir Richard Marsh—another harsh critic of government interference—told Mr Anthony Crosland, then Secretary of State for the Environment, that he would not be seeking reappointment.

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The Bresciani burnish their image

John Earle

of steel bars—to Britain, it was objected, had risen from an average 2,000 tons a month in 1977 to 8,500 tons in February. The Bresciani—so called because 85 of these private firms are based near Brescia, Italy—did not enjoy good image abroad, especially following fines imposed on several of them by the Community for undercutting prices.

Italy produces 52 per cent and 25 per cent respectively of the concrete reinforcing bars and merchant bars which are in surplus on the markets of the Nine and the subject of fierce competition. Four fifths of Italian output is sold on the home market. The rest goes to the rest of Europe and France, while Britain takes

smaller quantities of merchant bars. Officials at the manufacturing representative body, Industria Siderurgica Associata (ISA), minimize the extent of the dispute, saying they always had good working relations with their counterparts in Community countries. It is, they say, mainly a question of size. Their member firms are mostly multi-works, whose electric furnaces process ferrous scrap into a limited range of products.

A typical manufacturer near Brescia would have a yearly output of 150,000-200,000 tons and a workforce of around 300. They are, in their own words, very flexible, very adaptable to customers' demands, very un-bureaucratic, and cheap. The complaints, they maintain, are inspired by the loss-making giants of the industry in other parts of Europe, which have been unable to cope with the world steel crisis.

The officials reject the criticisms commonly levelled against them. Their members, they say, do not sell under cost, but make a honest profit. They do not receive subsidies from outside, unless it has been a few cases of "cassa integrazione" payments from the government's temporary redundancy fund for limited periods of time. They do not underpay their

employees, saying this would never be accepted by the highly unionized workforces, and their wages are in fact well above the national minima as there is a shortage of skilled labour.

Exchanges during the spring and summer reached what the officials call a "gentleman's agreement" to self-regulate exports of concrete reinforcing bars and merchant bars. The Italian press has reported agreed maximum levels of 5,000, 6,000 tons of merchant bars to Britain, 21,000 tons to France and 25,000 tons to West Germany.

ISA maintains that the levels are not hard and fast and if exceeded in one month the surplus will be worked off by under-delivering in succeeding months. The general consideration, it is stated, is that Italy will not export to another Community partner more than 20 per cent of that partner's consumption.

The foreign sales and order coordinating office, Ufficio Coordinamento e Ripartizione Ordini (Ucro), under Valentin Cimaz, is located in the premises of ISA.

There are 31 firms in Ucro, mostly Bresciani, though there are big names like the state-owned Italsider and Terni. Membership of Ucro is open to any Italian firm manufacturing these two types of bars.

The EEC approved agreement which led to the establishment of Ucro, admitted that the surplus of steel on world markets

had given rise to particularly fierce competition and large falls in prices and earnings, and recognized that "the agreement is accordingly essential in order to achieve the result of improved production and distribution, and it is no more restrictive than is necessary for that purpose".

Ucro's function is defined: "To carry out on its members' behalf all the administrative and statistical work necessitated by the anti-crisis measures enacted by the commission and, where necessary, to seek out new sales outlets in other member and non-member countries and fairly distribute any orders placed as a result thereof. Ucro's activities would not, however, interfere with the business activities of any of its members."

Ucro is required to keep documentation of each commercial transaction including a copy of the acknowledgement of an order, which it has to countersign and send to the customer. The certificate of conformity introduced by the commission, as stated in the preamble to the Community decision, "will be issued on Ucro stationery. It will be drafted on Ucro's responsibility and released only if the conditions of sales conform to the commission's decision."

If these requirements are faithfully observed, the immediate points of friction will have been removed, even though no end is yet in sight to the overall steel crisis in the world.

WOOD & SONS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Earthenware Manufacturers

INTERIM STATEMENT (unaudited)

	Hall-van ended 30th June 1977	1978	1979	Year ended 31st Dec.
	£	£	£	£
GROUP SALES	2,296,000	2,054,000	11.8%	4,209,068
GROUP OPERATING PROFIT	342,000	309,000		457,902
Deduct: Depreciation, Directors' Remuneration, Auditors Fees and Interest Charges	101,000	95,000		204,713
GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	241,000	214,000	12.8%	253,189
Deduct: Estimated Taxation	15,000	8,000		15,797
GROUP PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	226,000	206,000		237,392

"I give you pleasure to report the improved half yearly figures. An Interim Dividend of .87p per share (1977-33p per share) will be paid on the issued Ordinary Capital of the Company. Warrants will be posted to Shareholders on 20th November. Our strong order position denotes continued growth during 1978."

H. FRANCIS WOOD, Chairman.

Ross Davies

Engineering plays main part in Cen & Sheerwood's advance

Central & Sheerwood, which among other things tells companies how to manage their money, merge and plan, sets a splendid example in the half year to June 30. The shares responded by rising 36p. They would probably have gone a lot higher but for the market's apathy.

Sales rose by nearly 18 per cent to £36.9m and trading profits by more than 36 per cent to just over £3m. But of these engineering contributed the lion's share of £2.9m. "Financial" profits in fact slipped from £117,000 to £97,000.

However, the upshot was a healthy 36.3 per cent jump to £2.47m in pre-tax profits, reasonable enough after the 41 per cent jump the year before. Moreover profits after tax and minorities jumped by 42 per cent to £1.26m and earnings a share adjusted for the recent one-for-one scrip issue duly rose from 1.39p to 1.97p.

Equally encouraging is the official news that "pre-tax profits in the second half of



Dr. James Singer, chairman of Central & Sheerwood.

the year should at least equal those of the first half," indicating profits of £6m plus for the year against £4.7m, and of the £1.43m tax charge in the latest six months, perhaps only £255,000 or so is actually pay-

able, thanks to stock relief and capital allowances.

Best of all is the decision to hoist the interim dividend by a full fifth to 0.675p net, or to 1p gross. Central is keen on rewarding shareholders—it got in an issue to members of 1.6m of new 10 per cent £1 preference shares last June well ahead of the Government ban—and the hope is that the group will qualify at final time for the concession allowing companies with covers at a five year peak to raise dividends long with earnings.

The omens look good. Newcomer Photopia did extremely well, thanks to the consumer boom, and despite the surge in the engineering interests the group is still working well within capacity. Bank facilities are thought adequate to afford further acquisitions.

At 36p the historic yield is 4.9 per cent and the price earnings ratio on last year's figures 10.4. At present only the market's listlessness and a conglomerate image prevent better ratings.

Buoyant sales put spark into Siemssen

By Tony May

Pre-tax profits of Siemssen Hunter are up 33 per cent to £422,000, if the contribution made by the tobacco leaf merchant and broking unit Siemssen Threshie last year is excluded. The company was sold in June for £250,000 cash and a surplus of £68,000 from the transaction is included as an extraordinary item.

The rise in profits by the tobacco and specialist publishing group was achieved on a more-than-doubled turnover of £13.1m. Sales in all divisions are running ahead of this time last year and the board is looking to a good final result. The group's trading is seasonal, and more of its profits, which last year were a record £814,000, are made in the second half.

Much will depend upon how the group benefits from the consumer boom but in any case the dividend is to be raised by the maximum allowed under current legislation, meanwhile, the interim is raised from 2.07p to 2.27p.

Over a full year most of the group's profits come from cigar sales—with a peak around the Christmas season. Also, the group's gradual diversification into specialist publication is going well. The group covers educational, international and do-it-yourself publications as well as a thriving microfilm operation.

Tourism part in MF North rise

Although sterling has been stronger this year the tourist boom continues and the first six months of 1978 has seen a 66 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £191,000 at the M. F. North hotels group. Sir Cyril Black, chairman, had expected some fall-off in trading after the bumper Jubilee year results. However, this was not the case as far as the hotels were concerned and overseas business continues to make a big contribution to turnover, which went up from £1.52m to £2.13m.

The interim dividend is raised from 0.18p to 0.2p gross, and a maximum final is expected.

Although business was not quite as good as last year Sir Cyril reports satisfactory trading for the first nine months of the year. He says forecasting for the final quarter is never easy but expects shareholders to be well satisfied with the year's outcome.

Stock markets

Absence of sellers stirs equities

More on the absence of sellers than any genuine buying interest, equities touched higher levels again yesterday, helped on their way by a technical rally in the gilt market.

Tempered by yields of up to 13.3 per cent at the very long end, some pension fund managers tested the fixed interest market and long dated gilts added up to half a point at one stage.

Though trading was light there was evidence of some bear closing ahead of the money supply figures tomorrow. Estimates are generally converging on a growth figure for M3 of around 5 1/2 per cent comfortably below the lower ceiling.

Avon Group's strength is noteworthy. The shares rose 3 1/2 p to 58 1/2p yesterday. The 1977-78 high is 53p and the low 14 1/2p. Northern Foods has 8 per cent of the shares, and both its offshoots, Marks & Spencer and Avon's chairman is, incidentally, stepping down from all his posts in Hodge Group, now part of Standard Chartered Bank.

And confidence is further buoyed by hopes that the Chancellor will take a tough monetary stance when he speaks at the Bankers' dinner tomorrow evening.

At the shorter end, nervousness about higher interest rates in America, stocks held steady after easing slightly earlier in the day.

Uncertainty over pay policy and Wall Street's overnight downturn put a brake on equities at the outset, but a shortage of stock and the continuing weight of institutional money soon helped the FT Ordinary share index and, by the close, it had gained 3.9 to its highest level of the day.

It was the second time in the past two or three sessions that the index has bounced off the 493 chartists break point level but some market men feel that any further improvement through the 500 mark could en-

courage selling into the rally. Of the leader stocks to improve ICI at 392p and Glaxo at 573p went 5p better while Beecham added 6p to 693p, Metal Box added 6p to 352p and Courant added 2p to 121p.

In electricals EMI at 159p and Racal at 332p were a good market going 4p to 6p better.

Hopes that the Ford strike may be settled soon helped main dealer BSC, which reported good figures on Monday, to firm slightly to 41p while Lucas added a penny to 312p.

In stores a near 40 per cent profit increase saw some buyers of Marks & Spencer where the equity climbed 4p to 86p. British Home Stores with figures today Tuesday, firmed a similar amount to 209p while GUS 'A' at 314p and Burton 'A' at 314p spurred 6p each.

Debenhams, where there is thought to have been a line of stock in the market, eased a penny to 38p.

Second-half trading at Brooke Bond was better than expected and the shares added 1p to 49 1/2p while trading news from United Carriers added 4p to the equity at 144p and 7p to Erith at 104p.

By contrast, sharply reduced earnings at Zenith Carbuett, left the shares 10p down at 82p.

Wm Baird firmed 4p to 182p after the rejection of its bid by

the directors of Dawson International. After spurring 13p to 213p at one stage the shares of Dawson, additionally helped by a dividend boost, settled at 209p, a gain of 9p on the day.

The third member of the triangle John Haggas, which had hoped to merge with Dawson, climbed 8p to 146p.

Renewed takeover speculation added 6p to Birmingham Mint at 135p while awaiting bid developments Midland Education went 5p higher to 230p.

In shipping Furness Withy improved 6p to 240p on figures no worse than expected while speculative demand in a thin market nudged Common Brothers 7p higher to 154p.

Excited by the news that Montague L. Meyer—unchanged at 92p—has been increasing its stake, Bambergers touched 80p at one stage yesterday before easing back to end steady at 78p.

International Timber, currently bidding for Bamberger, firmed a penny to 125p.

In the weakness of West Street left BP 8p lower at 906p but Shell at 574p firmed 4p and Ultramar, which went better in after hours, climbed 9p to 232p.

Speculative demand in a thin market added 5p to Regalian at 22p and M&M at 88p.

Gold shares were mixed despite bullion reaching another

record high. The sector has not been performing as well as the metal price in recent weeks and dealers report that there has been some stock around.

Yesterday Randfontein's £31.32 went ahead; Elsberg a 94p and Western Areas at 155p added a few pence but Harman at 312p fell back slightly.

In a firm tin sector Gevee climbed 10p to 165p while in banks Lloyds at 260p and Bar

Imry Property has been a strong market, rising 33p to 388p since Friday. Accompanying the results was an asset revaluation which boosts before tax assets per share to around 650p. At this level, some market men feel that the equity is still looking cheap.

Equity turnover on October 16 was £63,049m (16,512 bargains). Acre stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, Marks & Spencer, Shell, Barclays, BAT Ord, GUS 'A', ICI, BAT Ind, Glaxo, Turner & Newall, RTZ, Dawson Int, Wm Baird, J. Haggas and Regalian Props.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Authority Invests (I)	—	1.1(1.5)	—	—	—	—
W. Boulton Grp (F)	20.2(18.0)	1.3(0.91)	—	—	7/12	1.2(1.0)
Brooke Bond (F)	48.9(57.1)	44.7(49.8)	8.34(12.77)	0.7(0.69)	—	3.0(2.7)
Central & Sheerwood (I)	36.9(31.2)	2.7(2.0)	1.9(1.3)	0.67(0.56)	8/12	—
Erith & Co (I)	11.9(10.4)	0.50(0.35)	—	2.0(1.8)	—	—
Furness Withy (I)	95.3(96.3)	5.7(12.2)	—	3.85(3.5)	5/1/79	(8.2)
Kode Int (I) (a)	3.7(2.8)	0.60(0.42)	—	1.8(1.6)	4/1/79	—
Manchester Finance (I)	3.1(2.5)	0.33(1.3)	—	1.0(1.01)	2/1/79	—
M. F. North (I)	2.1(1.5)	0.19(0.11)	—	0.13(0.12)	3/1/79	(0.45)
Lowland Drapery (I)	2.7(2.3)	0.12(0.11)	—	1.4(1.3)	1/1/79	—
Provident Life (I)	—	0.06(0.03)	—	4.1(3.7)	1/1/79	—
Raine Eng Ind (F)	17.4(14.5)	0.28(0.83)	1.1(2.2)	0.58(0.58)	—	0.87(0.37)
Siemssen Hunter (I)	13.1(6.5)	0.42(0.37)	—	1.5(1.3)	2/1/79	—
Spirax-Sarco (I)	17.2(14.3)	2.5(2.2)	—	2.10(3.6)	8/12	—
Utd Carriers (I)	10.5(8.1)	1.5(1.2)	8.4(6.5)	1.9(1.2)	5/1/79	—
Western Bros (I)	4.7(3.8)	0.10(0.09b)	—	2.0(1.8)	4/1/79	—
Zenith Carb (I)	5.8(6.4)	0.32(0.88)	—	3.0(7.4)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=28 weeks. b=Loss.

Spirax maintains growth rate

By Ray Maughan

Spirax-Sarco Engineering is maintaining its admirable record of 20 per cent compound annual growth. While turnover in the six months to end-June last climbed from £14.39m to £17.25m, trading profits expanded by £400,000 to £2.89m. After a slight fall in debt service costs, pre-tax profits were ahead by a fifth at £2.67m.

The signs are that Spirax should be on course for something over £6m pre-tax for the full year which would indicate fully taxed "nil" earnings of about 15.5p per share. The price jumped 6p to 168p yesterday on the initial reaction to the interim profits where the

prospective p/e is an undemanding 10.8.

The point about the group's recent track record is that it has been achieved in a flatish trading environment. World trading conditions, as Mr A. C. Brown, chairman, reminds shareholders, have not been buoyant and Spirax, while enjoying some upturn in demand for its steam traps, thermostatic radiator valves and other energy related products, has had to rely on a policy of expansion into new geographical areas to sustain its momentum.

The cost of new overseas operations, notably in Austria, Holland and Singapore, are still being absorbed and the burden

will probably become heavier as Spirax opens new trading bases to increase its world sales coverage. The board sees scope to boost market share in many overseas economies and notes that the doors to previously inaccessible areas are now widening. But there is an additional discomfort in that the stocking of these infant operations—in what is largely an ex-stock business—throws an additional weight on factory capacity.

A gross internal dividend of 3.134p per share is supplemented by an additional payment of 0.0586p gross per share, relating to 1977, to reflect the change in the standard rate of income tax.

Consumer boom revives Utd Carriers

By Michael Clark

An increase in the volume of traffic banded at United Carriers steered the group back on the right tack following its setback in profits for 1977.

Interim figures for the opening half to June 30 show a rise in pre-tax profits of 26 per cent to £1.5m on turnover up from £8.2m to £10.5m. Earnings a share turn out at 8.4p compared with 6.5p.

It declares an interim dividend of 1.46p gross against 1.04p for the corresponding period. Commenting on the outcome, Mr Graham Millard, chairman,

said the increase in consumer spending forecast in his annual statement is materialising. This is reflecting a true volume growth and he is confident that profits of the group for the full year will be satisfactory.

On this note, the board intends to pay the maximum permitted final dividend under dividend control legislation.

A revaluation of the group's freehold and leasehold properties throws up a surplus of £700,000 over and above book value and will be included in the accounts for the current year.

Pre-tax profits of United Carriers last year slipped from £2.4m to £2.2m on turnover up from £14.4m to £17.2m. The shortfall was blamed on an unexpected fall in volume following an encouraging start to the year.

Volume at present shows an overall increase of about 10 per cent over the same period last year while operating costs have risen far less steeply than in recent years.

News of the improved results put the share 3p up at 98p yesterday.

The Times Euromarkets and Foreign Bond quarterly

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Each main section has lists of new issues, followed by tables and pictorial charts. Authoritative commentaries are also included.

They show currency of issues, life, type of borrower, geographical and industrial breakdowns, sinking fund diary and liquidity statistics.

Of course, there'll always be items cropping up in each section which will merit special coverage. And the publication is rounded off with a supplement of tombstone advertisements which have appeared in The Times.

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Car disputes and imports jolt Zenith

By Rosemary Unsworth

A strike-bound British car industry and the high level of foreign car imports ensured that Zenith Carbuett's profits fell even further than either the company or the Stock Market expected.

Pre-tax profits slumped from £880,000 to £346,000, while turnover fell from £6.4m to £5.8m in the first six months to June 30. The share price reflected the results by shedding 10p to 82p during the day.

The possibility of Zenith, which is controlled by Compagnie Industrielle et Financière, getting back to its £1.3m profits of 1977 during the second half is unlikely, with continuing industrial unrest in the British car industry.

"I don't expect there will be any dramatic change in the second-half results as factories will not increase output while

imports stay at present levels and pay disputes continue", said Mr Gordon Dawson, chairman.

The company plans to diversify production into another small, high volume product which will be unconnected with the car industry, and to gain a foothold for its carburetors in the European car market. "Neither of these plans, which have been under way for some time, will make any difference to this year's results, but will perhaps help next year", said Mr Dawson.

Currently Zenith manufactures carburetors for the Swedish market, while its parent company, Solex, supplies Peugeot's whose merger with Chrysler may help the company to boost profits in the future.

In common with previous years, there is no interim dividend payment.

Higher gold price benefits 'Johnnies'

By Michael Prest


More quarterly reports from the gold mines, this time the Anglo-Vaal group and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, demonstrate clearly the impact of the higher gold price. At Johnnies' mines did better, but the average gold price received by the Anglo-Vaal mines was lower than in the previous quarter because of the changeover in the method of payment for gold in the last quarter.

In the Johnnies group Randfontein, the oldest listed mine on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, received £203.5 an ounce, and produced 5221 kilograms of gold. Operating profit was £19.9m. Western Areas' made £12.5 an ounce, on production of 6,003 kilograms, giving an operating profit of £10.2m.

Two of the Anglo-Vaal gold

mines, Eastern Transvaal and Harthebeestfontein, received lower gold prices, at \$198.9 and \$206.4 an ounce respectively. ETC produced 540.2 kilograms for a pre-tax profit of £1.3m. Harthebeestfontein made pre-tax profits, including premium, of £24.6m, and mined 7.83 kilograms of gold.

The contrast between older gold/newer-gold prices is illustrated by the full-year results from Lorraine Gold Mines, one of Anglo-Vaal group. Whereas the full-year price for gold was \$153.8 an ounce, for the final quarter to the end of September it was \$219.3. The working loss on gold mining at Lorraine was thus cut to £4.53m. But State assistance working profit was £3.23m against £2.51m for last year.



Brooke Bond Liebig

Results for the financial year ended 30th June 1978

	1978 £000	1977 £000	1976 £000
Sales outside the group	756,202	769,154	591,465
Group trading profit before interest	48,994	57,181	31,841
Taxation	20,924	19,496	12,865
Profit before extraordinary items	21,456	27,935	12,001
Dividends paid and proposed			
Interim of 0.831875p net (1977 0.75625p; 1976 0.6875p)	2,139	1,556	1,414
Final of 2.254385p net (1977 2.00757p; 1976 1.787p)	5,796	5,162	3,676
	7,935	6,718	5,090

The total gross dividend for the year is equal to a rate of 4.60636p per share, an increase of 10% over last year which is the maximum permissible.

Earnings per share on the net basis	8.34p	12.77p	6.17p
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Annual Report
The annual report will be posted to shareholders on 10th November, 1978 together with the notice of the annual general meeting to be held on 8th December, 1978 at The London Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London E.C.4.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Hoskins puts in 'no logic in bid' to Talbex shareholders

Hoskins & Horton has taken a final step of writing to Talbex Group shareholders before the latter has decided whether or not to make the offer, which has been backed by Hoskins' union employees, states the board believes. Hoskins is not a commercial company and is not a public company and is sure that it does not wish to give an offer to Talbex shareholders. Such an offer would have a damaging effect on the value of your investment. This is a decision that the board of Hoskins & Horton has taken. The board believes that there is no logic in a bid for Talbex. The board has decided to write to Talbex shareholders to inform them of this decision. The board believes that there is no logic in a bid for Talbex. The board has decided to write to Talbex shareholders to inform them of this decision.

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SOBRANIE (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Results from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr. Charles C. Redstone:

The results are particularly disappointing because there were no dividends for reasonable expectation that the year would be an improved one. In both our Laundry and Engineering divisions, the accounts reflected distinct improvements and had a similar situation prevailed in the Tobacco division we should indeed be achieving a very much more cheerful picture.

The results of improved productivity and the elimination of poorly serviced areas have resulted in a much better profit situation in the Laundry division. A substantial modernisation programme, now nearing completion, will give us a much better facility and will enable us to take on work which up to now we have not been able to handle.

Despite the continuing low level of activity in the engineering sector in general, our Engineering division finished the year with a much improved performance and a much heavier order book. We believe that the situation in the Tobacco division and indeed generally, is on the upturn and trading in the first few months of this year has indicated a marked improvement.

M P KENT LIMITED

HOUSING + PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Year ended 30th June	1978	1977
Sales	13,674	9,038
Trading Profit	1,700	1,526
Interest Paid	594	708
Profit before Tax	1,106	818
Profit after Tax	822	410
Cast of Dividends	242	221
Profit before Tax as % of Sales	8.1	9.0
Earnings per Share After Tax	8.5p	3.7p
Net Tangible Assets per Share	78.4p	56.8p

- * Group Profit up 35.1% for the year at £1,105,702 on sales of £13,674,235.
- * Final Dividend again increased to 1.6p per share making a total for the year of 2.26p (1977 2.08p).
- * Balance Sheet goes from strength to strength and shareholders' funds now stand at £7,550,806.
- * Further drop in Group indebtedness to £2,134,149 and gearing now only represents 28.3% of shareholders' funds.
- * Prime developments are in the pipeline and with the strength of the Balance Sheet behind us, I view the future with confidence.

M. P. KENT Chairman

Courtaulds leave field clear for Vantona

Briefly

The way now looks clear for Vantona to take over J. Compton, Sons & Webb (Holdings), with yesterday's news that Courtaulds' offer for Compton has lapsed. Acceptances were received from holders of only 12 per cent of the ordinary shares and 13.6 per cent of the preference. The battle started earlier this year, when Vantona began talks with Compton, but these ended when agreement could not be reached. Then Carrington Viyella entered the arena with an offer, which was finally withdrawn on October 3. On that date, Vantona held almost 11 per cent of Compton's equity. Compton's shares closed unchanged at 74p yesterday—just 1p below Vantona's cash offer which was agreed last week. There is also a share-exchange offer.

Allied Plant takes off in first half

A record half-time profit, more than doubled at £206,000, against £92,000, comes from Allied Plant Group for the first half. Turnover also jumped by 46 per cent to £2,47m.

Mr Michael Heathcote, chairman, says that last November's reorganisation had laid the basis to expand existing activities. The rise in turnover and profit was entirely due to organic growth. This internal expansion is gathering momentum, he adds. Meanwhile, the interim payment is lifted from 0.45p to 0.59p.

Options

Marks & Spencer, which reported better than expected interim figures yesterday, proved to be the high flyer of the traded options market claiming 157 of the 647 contracts dealt. Much of the business was in the October options due to expire soon. The in-the-money October 70 at 17p added 40p to 7p. The underlying equity firmed 4p to 88p.

In the conventional options market dealers reported moderate activity with calls being taken in, among others, FNFC 91 per cent 1992-97, Consolidated Gold Fields and English Property. This latter also saw a double, completed as did Town & City, Trafalgar House and Dunlop.

Business appointments

Sir Charles Troughton joins Whitbread board
Sir Charles Troughton has joined the main board of Whitbread as a non-executive director.

Mr John Briggs and Mr Brian McCullough have joined the board of Buzzi Pap & Paper.

Mr J. A. G. Clarke and Mr G. R. A. Mearns have become joint managing directors of Bath and Portland Group.

Mr Alan Day has been appointed treasurer of National Westminster Bank's domestic banking division. He succeeds Mr Douglas Edge, who retires on October 31.

Mr H. B. Stadler, chairman and managing director of R. & A. Kohnstamm, is to give up the post of managing director on December 31 but will continue as chairman. Mr N. W. Palmer is to succeed him as managing director.

Mr F. Horridge, Mr E. C. Hartwell, Mr D. P. Herbert and Mr R. F. Newman have been made directors of Davies and Newman Holdings.

Mr P. Mullerley becomes chief executive of Aluminium Bronze. Mr J. E. Oates has been made a non-executive director of Plaxton (Scarborough). Miss G. Plaxton has resigned.

Mr L. Griffiths has joined the board of Gamma Associates.

Mr J. G. Ritchie has been appointed a director of Thomas Witter.

Mr D. D. D. Voyle is chairman and Mr N. G. Timmins managing director of a new company, Grand Metropolitan Systems.

Mr Brian Johnson has been made managing director of Weston Hydraulics.

Mr F. R. Salinge, a director of Griffio Factors, has been elected chairman of the Association of British Factors.

"Jardines Anticipate Increased 1978 Earnings & Dividends"

Net profit for the first six months was HK\$120.1 million (1977: HK\$112.1 million), an increase of 7.1%. Prospects for the rest of the year indicate that the same level of earnings growth will be maintained for full year.

Interim dividend equivalent to HK\$0.20 per stock unit to be satisfied by the issue of new stock units at market value with cash alternative at stockholders' option. Final dividend equivalent to HK\$0.51 per stock unit anticipated, making a total of HK\$0.71 for the year (1977: HK\$0.67).

Minority interests acquired in three publicly quoted companies which are now wholly-owned subsidiaries: Jardine Industries Ltd—Hong Kong, Jardine Matheson & Co. (South East Asia) Ltd—Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and Joff Bros Industries Ltd—Australia.

Term debt again reduced despite the issue of Sing. \$39.2 million 8½% guaranteed unsecured loan stock 1985 to acquire minority interests.

Hong Kong, our main operating area, continued to prosper. Group benefited from a high level of activity in building and civil engineering sectors, and steady consumer demand. Participation in new joint-venture property developments in New Territories.

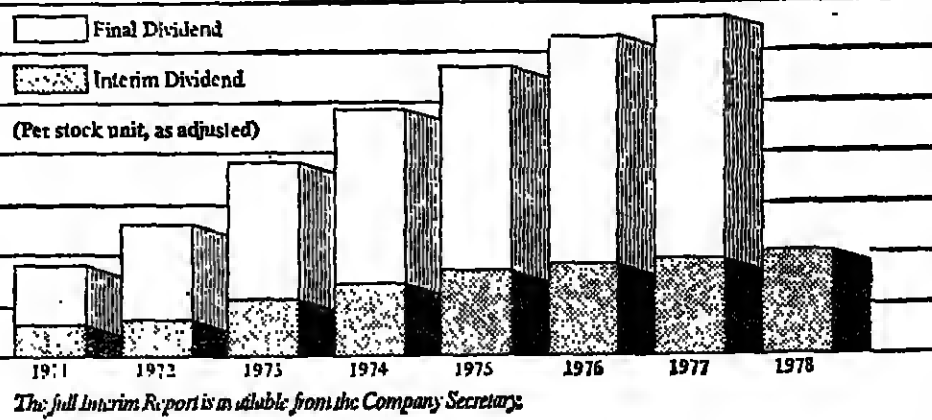
Equity in Middle East associate increased to 40% by payment of further US\$35 million bringing total investment to US\$111 million. This associate's operations continue to show good results and its future prospects remain encouraging.

D. K. Newbigging
Chairman
17th October, 1978

JARDINES

Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd, Connaught Centre, 11th Floor, Hong Kong

Progress through the 70's



The full Interim Report is available from the Company Secretary.

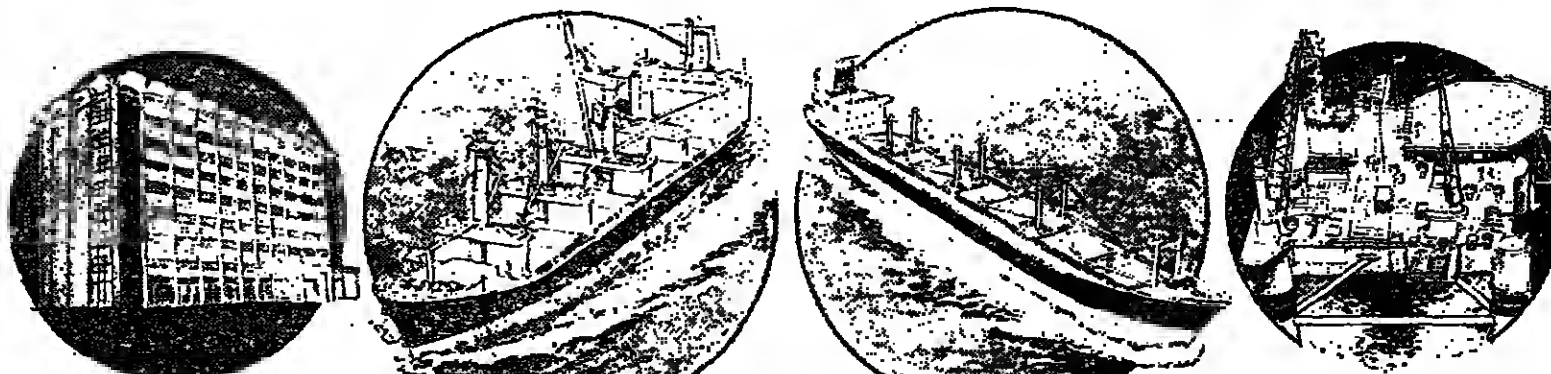
Furness Withy Group

Interim Results

for the half year ended 30 June 1978

	Unaudited for half year ended 30 June 1978	30 June 1977	Year ended 31 December 1977
	£m	£m	£m
TRADING PROFIT			
SHIPPING			
General shipping	3.1	3.0	5.3
Bulk shipping	(0.6)	0.3	0.5
Manchester Liners	1.7	1.7	2.8
	4.2	5.0	8.6
OFFSHORE	1.0	(0.3)	(0.1)
OTHER ACTIVITIES	1.5	1.5	2.7
TOTAL TRADING PROFIT	6.7	6.2	11.2
PROFIT before tax and extraordinary items	5.7	13.3	20.7

- * Own trading profits maintained in period of shipping depression.
- * Group profit before tax depressed as a result of reduced contribution from associated companies, sale of ships and increased finance charges.
- * Offshore oil support services and non-shipping activities account for 37% of trading profit.
- * Results of second half of 1978 expected to be broadly in line with first half.
- * Interim dividend increased by 10%.



Furness Withy Group

One of the big names in British Shipping
Furness Withy & Co. Ltd., 105 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5HH

If you would like to receive a copy of the full Interim Statement please fill in and post the coupon below.

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105 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5HH
Please send me a copy of the Interim Statement

Name

Address

MARKET REPORTS

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Country	Yield	Price
Australia 1980	10.50	100.00
Belgium 1980	10.50	100.00
Canada 1980	10.50	100.00
France 1980	10.50	100.00
Germany 1980	10.50	100.00
Italy 1980	10.50	100.00
Japan 1980	10.50	100.00
Netherlands 1980	10.50	100.00
Spain 1980	10.50	100.00
Sweden 1980	10.50	100.00
Switzerland 1980	10.50	100.00
UK 1980	10.50	100.00
USA 1980	10.50	100.00

Commodities

Commodity	Price
Aluminium	1,310
Copper	2,631
Gold	310.00
Iron Ore	100.00
Lead	1,000.00
Nickel	1,000.00
Platinum	1,000.00
Silver	1,000.00
Steel	1,000.00
Timber	1,000.00
Wool	1,000.00

Wall Street

Index	Value
Dow Jones	1,000.00
S&P 500	1,000.00
Nasdaq	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00

Recent Issues

Company	Yield	Price
ABC Corp	10.50	100.00
DEF Corp	10.50	100.00
GHI Corp	10.50	100.00
JKL Corp	10.50	100.00
MNO Corp	10.50	100.00
PQR Corp	10.50	100.00
STU Corp	10.50	100.00
VWX Corp	10.50	100.00
YZA Corp	10.50	100.00
BCD Corp	10.50	100.00

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	10.50
Barclays Bank	10.50
BCCI Bank	10.50
Consolidated	10.50
C. Hoare & Co	10.50
Lloyds Bank	10.50
London Mercantile	10.50
Midland Bank	10.50
Net Westminister	10.50
Rossminster	10.50
TSB	10.50
Williams & Glyn's	10.50

US 'is reviewing' sugar possibilities

Canberra, Oct 17.—Mr Doug Anthony, the Australian Trade and Resources Minister, said he has been asked by the United States Administration to study the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with the United States. Mr Anthony said that the United States is currently reviewing the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with Australia. He said that the United States is currently reviewing the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with Australia. He said that the United States is currently reviewing the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with Australia.

Foreign Exchange

Country	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.00
France	1.00
Germany	1.00
Italy	1.00
Japan	1.00
Netherlands	1.00
Spain	1.00
Sweden	1.00
Switzerland	1.00
UK	1.00
USA	1.00

Discount market

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

W A Tyzack has strong final leg

In spite of a poor first half-year trade at W. A. Tyzack brightened considerably in the last stage and posted profits of 55 per cent to £54,000 in the year to July 31. The total dividend, gross, is being lifted from 193p to 2.11p, the maximum permitted. Sheffield-based Tyzack makes engineering components.

Gold rises sharply

New York, Oct 17.—The price of gold rose sharply after the London market closed, with the price in New York for London delivery rising to \$310.00. The price of gold in New York for London delivery rose to \$310.00. The price of gold in New York for London delivery rose to \$310.00.

Spot Position of Sterling

Index	Value
Dow Jones	1,000.00
S&P 500	1,000.00
Nasdaq	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00

Money Market Rates

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

Forward Levels

Index	Value
Dow Jones	1,000.00
S&P 500	1,000.00
Nasdaq	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00

Euro-Deposits

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

TECALEMIT

Following approval from French Government, acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France. The acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France. The acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	10.50
Barclays Bank	10.50
BCCI Bank	10.50
Consolidated	10.50
C. Hoare & Co	10.50
Lloyds Bank	10.50
London Mercantile	10.50
Midland Bank	10.50
Net Westminister	10.50
Rossminster	10.50
TSB	10.50
Williams & Glyn's	10.50

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Foreign Exchange

Country	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.00
France	1.00
Germany	1.00
Italy	1.00
Japan	1.00
Netherlands	1.00
Spain	1.00
Sweden	1.00
Switzerland	1.00
UK	1.00
USA	1.00

Discount market

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

Money Market Rates

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

Forward Levels

Index	Value
Dow Jones	1,000.00
S&P 500	1,000.00
Nasdaq	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00
AMEX	1,000.00
NYSE	1,000.00

Euro-Deposits

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
STU Bank	10.50
VWX Bank	10.50
YZA Bank	10.50
BCD Bank	10.50

TECALEMIT

Following approval from French Government, acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France. The acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France. The acquisition of 70 per cent of Tecalemit in France.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	10.50
Barclays Bank	10.50
BCCI Bank	10.50
Consolidated	10.50
C. Hoare & Co	10.50
Lloyds Bank	10.50
London Mercantile	10.50
Midland Bank	10.50
Net Westminister	10.50
Rossminster	10.50
TSB	10.50
Williams & Glyn's	10.50

US 'is reviewing' sugar possibilities

Canberra, Oct 17.—Mr Doug Anthony, the Australian Trade and Resources Minister, said he has been asked by the United States Administration to study the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with the United States. Mr Anthony said that the United States is currently reviewing the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with Australia. He said that the United States is currently reviewing the possibility of a sugar trade agreement with Australia.

Foreign Exchange

Country	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.00
France	1.00
Germany	1.00
Italy	1.00
Japan	1.00
Netherlands	1.00
Spain	1.00
Sweden	1.00
Switzerland	1.00
UK	1.00
USA	1.00

Discount market

Bank	Rate
ABC Bank	10.50
DEF Bank	10.50
GHI Bank	10.50
JKL Bank	10.50
MNO Bank	10.50
PQR Bank	10.50
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NYSE	1,000.00

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TECALEMIT

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Contact: Miss Angela Moriarty 01-235 9984

Hayes, Middx
One of the most interesting and rewarding areas of work, for the Secretary who desires real job satisfaction, is the Personnel or Training Department of a large company. We have such a post, working for the Managers of Personnel and Training/Development. All round efficiency and administrative ability are taken for granted, shorthand would be useful, but Audio is used more frequently. The vital qualifications are tact and discretion, plus a smart appearance and pleasant manner. Very good conditions. Starting salary £4,000. Also other promising posts available.
Contact: Miss Angela Moriarty 01-235 9984

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The Manager of a very busy insurance department of a group of companies aligned to the Newspaper Industry, is looking for a Secretary who can assist him in the administration and personnel work. The work requires the Secretary to liaise with a wide variety of business contacts, on a friendly and efficient manner. The successful candidate should have a good knowledge of shorthand, typing and audio skills. Good experience in the insurance industry is essential. There is an opening for a bright, keen, junior Secretary in the Department. Contact: Mrs Jo Armit 01-235 9984

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SE23
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No shorthand
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or telephone Mrs Noble,
Bournemouth (0202) 27414, ext. 225

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Candidates should have a good knowledge of shorthand and typing and be to the age range 27-40. Ideally, past experience should include dealing with people at all levels. A fluency in French is a distinct advantage. The position would appeal to a well-educated, self-assured person who enjoys meeting people.

The salary envisaged is above average, as are the fringe benefits.

Please write with cv to Box 2856 K, The Times.

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For further details please contact Patient Control, Embury, Southwick & Lewisham Area Health Authority (T) Tel. 81-828 1801 ext. 225 or 251. Closing date 31st October.

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The Foundation's Director requires an Assistant who will be required to play an active part in the establishment of the Foundation. As well as possessing a wide range of secretarial skills, candidates should have a genuine desire to become involved in the Foundation's work—the production of programmes and maintaining contact with doctors, directors and production teams.

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Applications to: Leonard Rogers, Deputy Director, The MSD Foundation, Room 89, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

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Required by an international firm of Chartered Accountants in the City. Would suit young graduate with some literary/ editorial experience and knowledge of all stages of production.

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25-plus. To Bank of England advisors. The position requires discretion, excellent secretarial skills and the ability to converse with people at the highest levels.

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A Senior Secretary, 25 to 30, to the Credit Manager of a large American bank. Fast typing and an organizational ability required.

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Mid-20s. To two offices of American bank in the Strand. Banking experience is preferred for the above positions which will carry subsidized mortgage facilities and other generous fringe benefits.

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PA to the Director

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English/German

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Holiday Inns

Margery Hurst Centre

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Job offers above average benefits.

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to £4,700 + Benefits

We are looking for an experienced Secretary/PA who is a French national. This requirement is necessary because of the skills and experience which are needed in this senior secretarial position with the International Money Management Department of a leading company. You will require good French shorthand and typing skills and English typing only. As well as the ability to understand and have plenty of scope to use your initiative and discretion. Excellent benefits include annual profit share, bonus, low interest mortgage, and season ticket loan scheme, plus £1525.

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You should be a competent shorthand typist, experienced in office procedures and capable of using initiative.

You will be employed by the Electricity Council and will be seconded to BEI on a full-time basis at Thames House North, Millbank, SW1.

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c. £5,000 p.a.

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Candidates should possess excellent secretarial skills to both languages and should have previous experience at board level. They should be resilient enough to enjoy the pressures involved in working at this level and will probably be in the 25-35 age range. The rewards for this important position will be high. Apply with brief career details to Box 2855 K, The Times.

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The Australians



Australian image is of a nation of re-jawed, heavy-drinking extroverts care only about winning at sports. Taylor questions the accuracy of stereotype, and Douglas Aiton ses domestic politics

dia is a three-dimen- country which suffers a one-dimensional The essence of the is toughness, a charac- which some Australia- living to Britain seem obliged to project, are professional Aus- is in London, just as are professional Scots professional Yorkshire-

Once the outsider has discovered that Australians do not all have square jaws, wear hush hats with immense brims and exercise a vocabu- lary restricted to expletives, the danger is that such a stereotype can be replaced by its opposite.

Not all Australians like listening to Mozart, but enough do for a music lover not to need to feel peculiar about admitting such interests. Nor do artistic Utopia, Australia is no longer a cultural desert. Under sometimes aggressive ex- teriors, Australians can turn out to be quite gentle souls.

Every bit of the great Australian mystique is sub- ject to qualification. Take, for a start, that of the in-

trepid pioneer opening up a continent. Most people never travel through the outback. They belong to one of the most urbanized societies on earth, and an Australian is much more likely to be a clerk than a drover. They take their holidays on the coast, or accessible foreign places like the Philippines or French Polynesia. The nearest most ever get to the Northern Territory is when they fly over it on the way to and from overseas.

The aircraft is a great boon to Australia; it means that one can travel the 2,500 miles from Sydney to Perth without seeing any- thing in between. As in other vast territories, a conscious effort has to be made to travel in, rather than above, the country. The most many Aus- tralians drive from their cities is what can be comfortably fitted into a weekend. They go into the bush, but this is a well-tamed countryside with neat farms and green fields among the gum trees. The harsh, elemental beau- tiful landscapes of the in-

terior of this empty coun- try could be on another planet.

Australians are very sports-minded, and there is little room for English diffi- dence about victory in the Australian ethic. But while sport is about winning, most Australians are spectators rather than participants, although the climate encour- ages not-team sports like sailing and surfing.

"The national sport is now 'wine-drinking', a young Australian remarked to me. This may be a bit of an over-simplification, but it does make a point. Australians drink a lot. They are among the world's highest consumers of beer. But drinking conditions can be bleak. Some white-tiled bars in Sydney are remis- cent of bathrooms. Yet sip- ping wine with an articulate group of people can be a corrective to the view that drinking in Australia is necessarily a very basic affair. Australia may be a new country, but it began cultivating its vineyards nearly 200 years ago. An Englishman arrives in

Australia half expecting to be insulted as an effete "Pommie". True, he may hear sharp words about Britain and the British, who are often blamed for being lazy, lacking in enterprise and fomenting strikes.

On two visits to Australia I have certainly encountered plain speaking, but this was always during a conversation and never took the form of abrupt rudeness. The pace of life is generally relaxed, and strangers were invariably helpful.

But when a young Aus- tralian is asked for his views he is not likely to mince his words when explaining that he does not feel affinity with Britain or the monarchy. Australian nationalism is growing and adds a new dimension to the generation gap. The old and middle- aged are more likely to think nostalgically about Britain, to regret the demise of the white Commonwealth and Britain's entry to the Euro- pean Economic Community. The young will not think of this relevant to their lives. If they think of Britain, it may be to feel

resentment at the constitu- tional mechanics which allowed the Queen's repre- sentative in Australia, the Governor General, Sir John Kerr, himself an Australian, to dismiss the then Prime Minister, Mr Gough Whit- lam, in 1975.

This was not a resentment limited to the young, but ex- perience by everyone to the left of centre who saw Labour's rule between 1972 and 1975 as a new dawn after an unbroken 23 years of Liberal and Country Party (that is Conservative) coali- tion government.

Australia was to become a more caring society by mov- ing more towards a welfare state. There was to be a better deal for the Aborigi- nes, whose treatment over the years has been worse than that of the blacks in South Africa. Australia was also to develop more sym- pathetic policies towards the Third World.

In some respects the clock has been put back, but Australians' awareness of the Third World continues to evolve. While Mr Malcolm Fraser had denounced Mr

Whitlam for consorting with communists, the present Prime Minister made his first foreign journey in office to Peking. Australians cannot help being increas- ingly aware of Asia. "We have 2,000 million people above us", as a Sydney businessman put it.

While some Australians like to blame Britain for their economic problems—and British membership of the EEC has hit primary producers—a growing away from Britain and finding a regional position as a medium power in the Pacific has been inevitable.

The fall of Singapore in 1942 meant that Australia came to rely on the United States for military alliance. The postwar rise of Japan as an industrial power deprived of the raw materials which Australia could provide signalled a new economic partnership with the former enemy.

Asia was bound to play an increasingly important role in Australian affairs. Although critics saw the involvement of Vietnam as

unthinking support of its American ally, it also re- flected fears of the domino effect of a communist vic- tory in South-east Asia, Aus- tralia's "near north".

The cultural impact of Asia is still largely limited to the kitchen and the class and lecture rooms. The big cities have ethnic res- taurants serving a wide variety of Asian foods and students are able to learn languages like Indonesian and Chinese.

But the most obvious cul- tural changes within the last generation have come from the increase of immigrants from continental Europe, particularly Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia. Melbourne is now the third largest Greek-speaking city in the world (after Athens and Salonika).

The results have included not only the arrival of hard- working speakers of lan- guages other than English and a better choice of places to eat, but the appearance of Greek nationalists opposed to President Tito. The Australian melting

Australian social scenes: customers at a bar in Kal- goorlie, Western Australia, and (left) diners at the Sydney Opera House.

pot is certainly more inter- esting than in the days when immigrants came largely from Britain and Ireland, but this has not yet shifted the country away from its basic conservatism.

Despite the budding nationalism and greater cul- tural confidence, there is little significant sign of change when it comes to politics. Since the outrage generated over Mr Whitlam's dismissal, Australia has had two general elections and twice has endorsed what looked like the safer and steadier parties.

These recessionary times may not be conducive to the new departures—and the occasional silliness—of the Labour years. But the past suggests that while Australia may be a young country, distrust of innovation in politics and other areas is a force to be reckoned with.

Ideals give way to economic reality

Malcolm Fraser, the Minister, had a scare- dy. It was suggested he had displayed a lack of business during a com- plicated election. It was suggested that he had tried to influ- ence a Minister who had evidence to a royal assent.

Mr Fraser, in effect, said, "Nonsense" and was that. Certainly it was the first snail of danger

for the Prime Minister since he took over, in unusual circumstances, in November, 1975. And certainly the media, sensing that here at last was something poten- tially explosive, gave him a torrid time for a couple of weeks, even rather fancifully comparing it all with Water- gate. But, in the end, it simply went away.

Had it been Mr Gough Whitlam, Mr Fraser's pre- decessor and Australia's only Labour Prime Minister since the 1940s, the heat would

have remained much longer, and the ripples through Can- berra would have been far more turbulent. That shows not necessarily a lack of in- fluence by the media, but more the indifference of the populace. While it is true that Mr Fraser's popularity, and that of the coalition Government, has been steadily slipping, there is no doubt that Australians are conservative people who feel vastly more comfortable with what they consider to be the security of a Liberal

Party Government (supported by the reactionary National Country Party, formerly the Country Party).

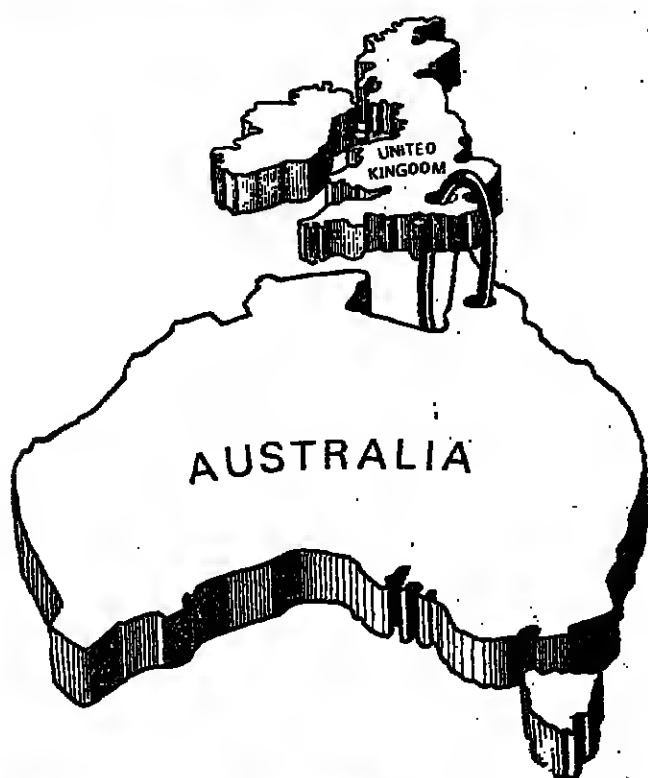
Given to romantic notions about their own fighting spirit, Australians will cer- tainly register their dis- approval of this and that within the coalition Govern- ment (and the polls will register a further slide in Mr Fraser's popularity). But, confronted with an election, whatever they have told the pollsters, on voting day they retreat to safety. That was evident in last December's election.

The election was called unnecessarily by Mr Fraser, and the whole of Australia seemed disgruntled by the inconvenience and the clear fact that it was a ploy by the Government to secure itself for another full term. At one stage during the weeks preceding the elec- tion, the polls were putting Labour ahead, and the news- papers were saying that Mr Fraser had made a bad mis- take which had put his Gov- ernment in jeopardy. But on election day Mr Fraser cruised home with a slightly reduced majority from his previous record in 1975.

Mr Fraser is probably more secure as Prime Minister than Sir Robert Menzies. At the height of his career, in 1961, Sir Robert nearly lost to the an- gelic Mr Arthur Calwell, and his com- placency was rudely shattered. So far, Mr Fraser has suffered no such setback and appears to be in no such danger, unless some sort of scandal, which seem to have replaced ideology as an election decider, emerges to unseat him.

Mr Fraser is reasonably young (48), still ambitious, enjoys being Prime Minister and revels in being the boss. But, despite his apparent security and his personal strength within the Govern- ment, it is difficult to pin- point any important achieve- ments of the administration since 1975. Justifiably, it has concentrated on the ailing economy and has succeeded in reducing the inflation rate substantially. Less justifiably, but in the stated interest of getting the economy moving, it has largely ignored the tremen- dous problem of unemploy- ment (the worst since the depression) and there is no relief for the unemployed in sight.

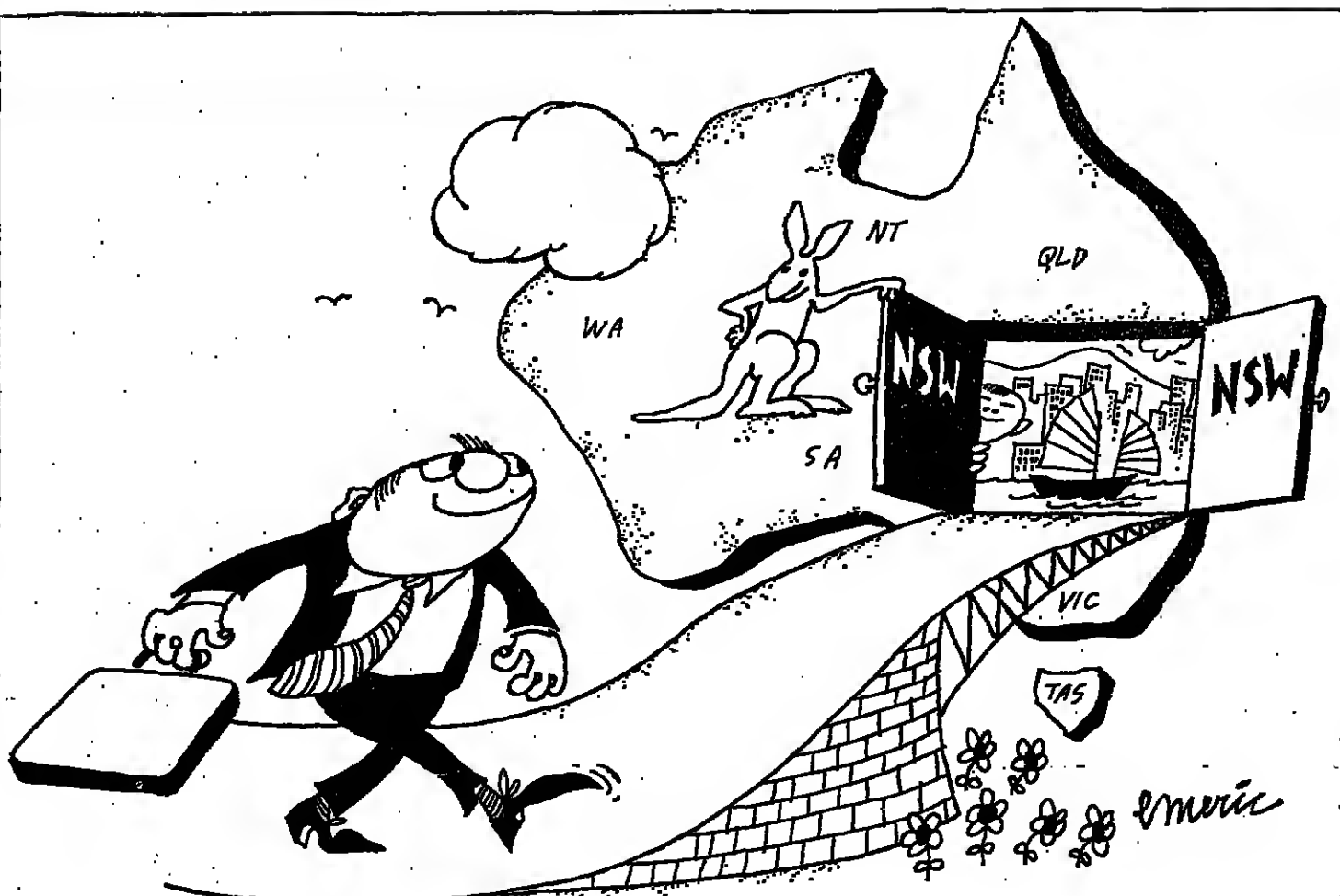
Apart from these two ever- present evils, the only memory so far which future generations will have is



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Where high unemployment is considered a necessary price to pay

The average Australian worker still remains one of the best-paid in the world, enjoying an enviable standard of living despite increasing efforts by the Australian Government to produce a fall in real wage levels and bring about a significant income redistribution from the low and middle income groups to the more affluent.

Australia's economy is likely to grow only moderately this year, and no reduction in unemployment is expected. The 1977-78 Budget showed a Government unwilling to risk inducing renewed inflation by tackling the big problems of flag-

ging consumer and business confidence and of unemployment. Far from arresting unemployment, the Government showed it considered high unemployment a necessary price to pay for lower inflation and reduced interest rates, the cost of pursuing its main policy objectives.

The Australian tax structure is becoming increasingly regressive as the Government uses it as a tool in its programme of income redistribution. Big tax reforms were introduced in February, with the number of tax "steps" reduced to only three. This brought more than 90 per cent of all taxpayers on to a flat tax rate of 32 cents in the dollar of taxable income,

after allowing for an initial tax-free income step.

These tax changes brought tax savings to all. But by far the largest savings in percentage terms went to the higher income groups. The February tax changes, made as a result of election promises which helped bring victory to the Liberal-National Party coalition, were significantly affected by changes in the 1977-78 Budget.

The most notable change was the 1.5 per cent surcharge placed on the entire tax scale, taking the standard rate from 32 cents to 33.5 cents. This surcharge was described as temporary, for one year only. This was much the

same sort of description applied during the Second World War to sales tax on motor vehicles, an emergency tax which has since been jettisoned and down but never removed.

The effect of the budget income tax surcharge was clearly regressive. The lower the income, the higher the percentage increase in tax paid. For some low income tax payers, it meant a 40 per cent increase in their tax bill.

But despite these regressive changes and huge rises recently in indirect taxes, Australians are still basically a lightly taxed people by comparison with income-tax scales in other developed nations.

Total taxation revenue in

1976-77 is estimated to be \$23,768.3m. Of this, more than half will come straight from personal tax, expected to total \$12,940m.

Basically reflecting the February tax changes, income tax receipts from individuals are expected to grow by only 3.3 per cent this year. But reflecting the tough line on spending taken in the Budget, excise duty will rise 30 per cent to \$3,885m.

With the additional excise tax being raised on beer, tobacco and spirits, this is another way in which the Government's efforts to reduce the budget deficit and raise taxation revenue is being applied in a regressive manner, hitting low and middle-income groups most severely.

Australia is at present free of any form of value-added tax. But various overseas VAT systems, including the British, are under study and introduction of a VAT system seems inevitable.

As part of the programme of redistribution of income and in line with general Liberal Party beliefs, both death duties and gift duties are being progressively abolished by the Federal Government, and by the state governments.

Gift duty will account for only \$2m of federal government receipts this year. Estate duty will amount to a tiny \$70m. Both these measures represent significant changes in income redistribution, leaving family asset accumulation un-

searched, free of any capital gains measures and causing possible profound, sociological changes in the future.

But even while the Government pursues its aims of lowering real wages and redistributing income, the average Australian wage earner still enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living, with an average weekly wage of more than \$210 a week, or approaching \$180 a week after tax.

The average worker is still benefiting from the explosion in wages which took place earlier this decade, when average weekly earnings rose 19 per cent in 1973-74, 22 per cent in 1974-75 and 14 per cent in 1975-76. Only once this decade have average earnings failed to

rise more than an annual basis than the cost of living.

The domestic economy then is a picture of moribund economic growth and rising unemployment as the Government clamps down on inflation and pegs interest rates. But for the majority, it is still an economy of plenty, with high wages and fairly low taxation. The two cannot coexist for much longer.

Australia's traditional high employment rates, for so long a key feature in the country's immigration advertisements, may perhaps never return. Unemployment is about 7 per cent and there are fears that it could reach 7.5 per cent later this financial year. Even if economic growth is fully resumed, the

rate may never drop below 3.5 to 4 per cent.

The threat of retrenchment is real for workers throughout industry generally only because of a moribund economy but because of a wave of labour-saving technological innovation modernization as Australia's secondary and tertiary industries are spurred into equipping through liberal tax allowances granted for capital investments. The Fraser Government is intent on hauling the economy into what it considers to be a trim, sensible shape, and that means leaner days ahead for average wage and salary earners.

New industrial issues: technology and the unions

In recent months, two big industrial arguments have been in the limelight but, significantly, neither of them involved the traditional causes of strikes—money and working conditions. Instead, the country suffered under two disputes which are emerging as the new industrial issues of Australia: technology, and how to live with it; and unions, and how to maintain their relevance.

Both disputes affected the public, and both left the conservative federal Government embarrassed, with its long-threatened tough industrial powers little more than a "paper tiger". Instead of settling the disputes through the newly established Industrial Relations Bureau or invoking legislation to sack non-cooperative workers in the public sector, the Government was forced to call in the country's leading negotiator, the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Mr Bob Hawke.

The first and most costly dispute involved technicians in the government-run telecommunications network. They felt their jobs were threatened by advancing technology, and eventually they won a cleverly managed campaign which kept them always with the upper hand.

Instead of striking, the technicians imposed work bans which crippled revenue-recording equipment for interstate and country telephone calls. The public was getting cheap, if delayed, calls. Business was gradually slowing as communications worsened. The government-run Telecom system was losing millions of dollars.

Eventually, after weeks of fruitless negotiation, the beleaguered Government called in Mr Hawke. With the advantage of wit, power, and being called in when all else was lost, he found a compromise. It took 15 hours of talks—but the dispute was settled.

It was a typical Hawke settlement: pragmatic, politically face-saving, and saleable to men with high expectations. Far from ingenious, it was a case of his being in the right place at the right time. But no one else could have done it.

It was the second time in months that he had achieved the seemingly im-

possible. In a previous triumph Mr Hawke had been called in by the federal Government when a strike by miners employed by the American-owned UTAH company was threatening crucial and valuable exports.

Mr Hawke negotiated what amounted to a 59.5 week increase, bringing workers' wages to about \$480 (£280). He did so with full government authority. But there was a nutcracker, and the Government tried to back out. Mr Hawke, the conservative wing claimed, had shown concern only for the money-hungry workers.

Always conscious of his public image, Mr Hawke was put out and retreated to more mundane matters. When the communications dispute surfaced soon after, it was the "Tories" (to use his description) who came to him, but in hand, and begged for industrial forgiveness. In typically dramatic style he obliged, stirring through a weekend of conferences and being locked up with the parties until they agreed. One could be sure he would change the table. "Not one of you bastards will leave this room until you talk bloody sense." It is classic; it is Hawke.

Unemployment plays into Mr Hawke's hands, although he is genuinely appalled by it. A strike or industrial dispute carries new meaning.

Now a worker is much less willing to risk his security over a social issue. The big threats remain not even the lack of a few dollars, but the danger to job security posed by technology and through diminishing union power.

This contrasts heavily with the heady days of the early 1970s, the days of dying Liberal coalitions and emerging Labour governments.

Take, for instance, Mr Norm Gallagher, the pro-Peking communist leader of 45,000 building workers. He led multi-million dollar bans on demolition of historic buildings, and the building of monoliths his union considered ugly. He banned construction work for boreal chains which could not serve his overall-clad members. He led bitter purges against political enemies within the union. He is now quiet. Content to organize

designed to achieve a low inflation rate at the cost of jobs. It defied the workers to reject the economic strategy and strike at a time when companies would welcome the respite of a halt in production.

Mr Hawke, a former Rhodes scholar, aged 48, recognizes this. As head of the federal government, he is lying low. He has recently given up alcohol except for the occasional glass of white wine with meals. This is a big change. Drinking had been a vital part of his life and personality. Many important disputes had been solved through late, hard-drinking nights of argument. It was part of the lifestyle which allowed the man to drive himself at a frightening pace.

Mr Hawke has never been a great supporter of union involvement in social issues. Left-wing leaders feel he has been noticeably muted in the widening opposition to uranium mining. It has been left to others to organize anti-budget campaigns, pro-Medibank (the Government's national health scheme) and even conservation fights.

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the mundane problems of running a union, he attends to small award matters, on job disputes. There has not been a national dispute involving his union for almost 18 months.

Mr John Halfpenny was thought to be a smooth-talking "Australian communist". Until recently he was considered pro-Moscow, but Soviet authorities took from him pro-dissident literature during a trip to Moscow, and his allegiances are thus in doubt. Sophisticated and always good for newspaper copy, Mr Halfpenny remains one of the more articulate union leaders. His outrage flares at government decisions but the actions of his members are quieter.

The metal industry—one of the country's largest employers—is depressed. Mr Halfpenny, as the Victorian state secretary and national vice-president, oversees members with some of the lowest wages awards in the country. But recent decisions refusing large increases have met with little other than rhetoric from him.

Mr George Slater is federal secretary of 60,000 postal and communications workers. He is proud of having joined the Royal Australian Navy at 15 to fight in the Second World War and has been known to carry his fight to pro and anti-Labour governments. He banned the delivery by mail of credit cards because they were "morally" dangerous. Mr Slater is now quiet. His members are reasonably well paid and their jobs safe. Minor industrial issues are dealt with efficiently.

The four men (including Mr Hawke) cover a broad range of the union movement. Their views differ. Their tactical characteristics are endless and more than the others in their hibernation.

But for the moment at least—and probably until employment rises and returns industrial stability to the unions—they remain dormant.

N.M.

Ideals give way to reality

continued from previous page

generations will have of the Fraser Government is its decision to go ahead with the mining and export of uranium. It remains to be seen if it will be thanked for that.

Less tangibly, Mr Fraser has succeeded in shattering the dreams of the Whitlam supporters, those who saw Mr Whitlam as a benevolent crusader who would lead Australia out of the past and into the real world, blow away the cobwebs and give the country a new image.

All such ideals have been disposed of sharply. The national health scheme, a Whitlam dream, is gone. Grants to the arts have more or less disappeared. The idea of the Government having a woman to advise on women's affairs has been a disaster and seems no longer to be functioning. The Fraser Government has done its best to appease those Australians who yearn for the good old days when all life was firmly attached to the wellbeing of the economy. Education, the arts, social welfare, new ideas generally have to wait their turn until the Government considers the inflation rate is healthy enough for it to think of other things.

Mr Whitlam has gone. His replacement, on whom for the moment any rocking of this very sturdy boat is dependent, is the self-educated former policeman, Mr Bill Hayden, whom nobody seems to dislike and everybody seems to respect, yet who so far has made little progress. Mr Hayden is an intellectual and, within the Labour context, a conservative. His aim seems to be to restore confidence in the Labour Party after the excesses of the Whitlam years (which numbered only three).

He is doing a fine job. Everybody believes he is a man of supreme integrity. He does not frighten anybody, as Mr Whitlam seemed to. But he has yet to have any impact. That may indeed be intentional, as it would seem ludicrous at this stage to attempt to topple the Government. There is little doubt that when the time comes, Mr Hayden will show himself to be a man of skill and tenacity. That opportunity is probably still distant.



Mr Malcolm Fraser, whose Government is now at the polls, ready for a different kind of appetite at the racing circuit.

In the meantime, Australians do not expect anything particular to happen except the inflation rate to continue falling. The standard of living is still very high; families have two cars, most people (except pensioners, who are not treated well, and the unemployed, who are treated worse) have enough money to take expensive holidays and dine out regularly; there is no outward evidence of a troubled economy.

For the moment, changes are expected. Australia is still geographically isolated, conservative in nature and more or less self-sufficient. There will be a revolution this year.

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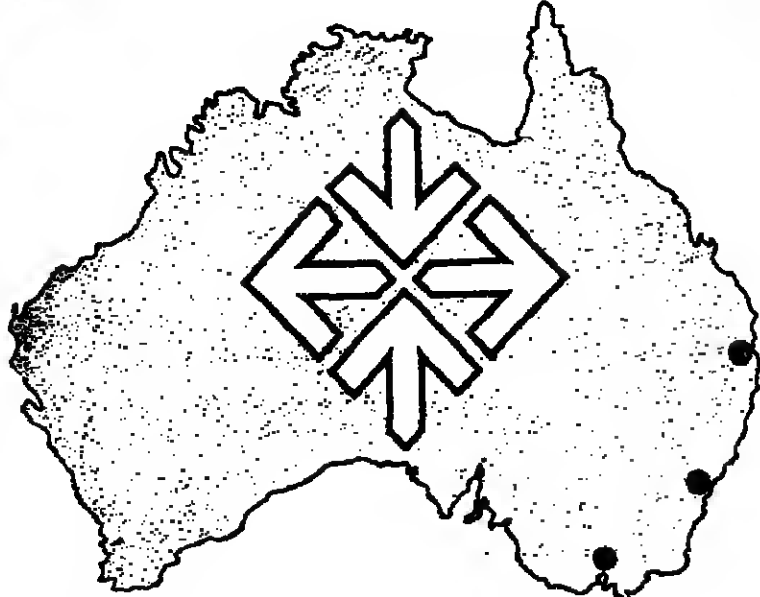
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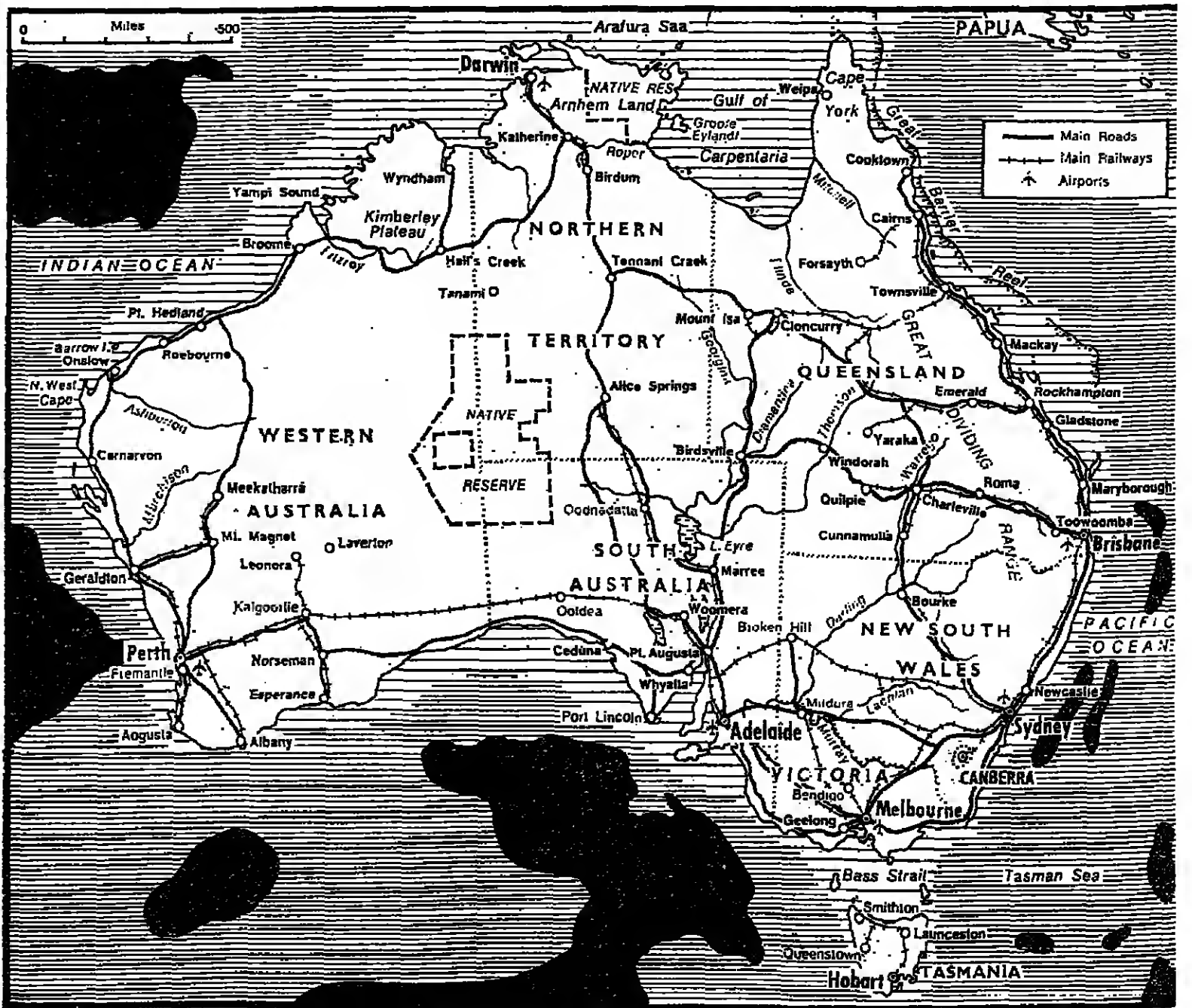
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Asia presses claim to trade

by Ted Cavey

Australia's trading outlook was dominated during the past year by the country's obsession with getting increased access to the markets of the EEC—but the Community's intransigence may yet prove a blessing. It is still reluctant, casting around at the markets in Australia's immediate region, those offered by its 2,000 million neighbours in Asia.

Criticism is growing of the federal Government's onslaught on the EEC to try to force a way through the wall which that trading colossus has erected to keep out the rest of the world's agricultural products. It is felt that the force of this approach is adversely affecting and detracting from the opening of trading opportunities with Asian nations, most of whom are already trenchantly critical of Australia's high tariffs and quantitative restrictions.

Australia's Minister for Special Trade Representations, Mr R. V. Garland, has rejected the criticism, justifying the EEC drive by saying that Australia's capacity for Asian exports will be enhanced if better market access for the country's agricultural products can be achieved. Consequently, Mr Garland and the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, have indicated that Australia will continue to better against the EEC wall if for no other reason than not to do could be interpreted as condoning EEC policies and practices.

They point out that despite

the potentially capacious Asian market, the EEC is still the biggest single source of supply of Australia's imports (about 26 per cent) and its third largest export market (about 16 per cent). But the Government cannot ignore the pressure building up to switch the main thrust to Asia and the Pacific, particularly the urging of greater export efforts by industries which are energy intensive rather than labour or technology intensive.

It is being rammed home that Australia is in a better position than most countries to upgrade raw materials such as bauxite and nickel, which is also implicit recognition that Australia cannot compete with Asia's more efficient, more productive industries.

It follows that Australia must help to promote more prosperity, more development in the countries of the region, not as an exercise in good fellowship but as an investment in practicality—the more buoyant their economies, the better their import capability. However, while it is true that Australia's imports from Asia have increased strikingly (at the expense of European imports) there is still constant and embarrassing criticism of the imbalance.

Particularly strident are the countries of ASEAN—Association of South-east Asian Nations—which include Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Opening the Australia-ASEAN Industrial Co-operation Conference in Melbourne recently, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr J. D. Anthony, acknowledged

the criticism and emphasized the problems, the size and limitation of the Australian market. A market of 14 million people obviously is much smaller than the markets in the industrialized economies of the EEC, Japan or the United States, he said, many thought unnecessarily, but he promised no immediate change of direction.

The hard-headed Asians were not impressed. Singapore's Senior Minister for Finance, Mr Goh Chok Tong, replied that it appeared that ASEAN nations lacked the charm of France and Italy when it came to wooing Australia. "Perhaps we in ASEAN must learn the technique of cooperation from the EEC and how it gets the Prime Minister of Australia to knock on its door," he said. Similarly, Australia's major trading partner, Japan, has recently brought strong pressure to bear for the abolition of restrictions on Japan's imports worth nearly \$2,000m a year.

The pressure is being applied as trade relations between the two countries are at a delicate stage. Australia wants Japan to increase its beef imports by 30 per cent—with Australia to supply half the increase—by 1980. This could involve a system of deficiency payments to Japanese producers to compensate them for higher imports.

The major drawback to Japanese compliance, however, is the present \$A3,000m annual trade deficit which Japan sees as strong persuasion for Australia to abolish import restrictions against cars, textiles and other consumer goods.

There is optimism Australia is on the threshold of building up substantial trade with China, which has a population of 900 million. Exports this year are expected to top \$450m, up from \$184,600,000 in 1976, but the commodities are dominantly food products, minerals and raw materials. Few Australian firms any success in selling manufactured products to China has tended to take machinery and technical imports from the more industrialized nations.

The Opposition has so far capitulated on the Government's trade problem with the EEC and its trading partners. Its leader, Mr Bill Hayden, recently forward a six-point aimed at intensifying development of country, the region and gearing trade's export industries to meet new Asian market.

The proposals include a point of a special negotiator for South Asia, government encouragement for businessmen to enter joint trade and development ventures in regional countries, and establishment of a financial institution, Australia to provide term loans to develop countries to enable them finance exports from Asia.

Mr Hayden also led the widely held belief Australia was missing an opportunity to enhance influence in South-east Asia by its failure to take action in part by looking wistfully to Europe economic salvation through increased trade.

View gains ground that there are too many universities

by Virginia Duigan

The generation of Australians who are now in middle life grew up with the gospel of growth ringing in their ears. Australia was young, free and prosperous. Its children should be educated to the limits of their ability. University life would not be a perk for the elite; it would be open to all with the brains to take advantage of it.

Reality, of course, fell somewhat short of the ideal, and tertiary education remained to a large extent the prerogative of the moneyed classes.

But in practical terms it was the thought that counted. The education or perish principle has left Australia in 1978 with a population of fewer than 14 million, 19 universities and a student body of 160,000.

The present recession and high unemployment, plus a federal Government resolutely devoted to cutting costs and corners, has taken the country's tertiary institutions by surprise. Suddenly the 19 universities and 84 colleges of advanced education are in the firing line.

The feeling that there are too many universities costing too much money, turning out too many students trained for jobs that do not exist; the idea that a sixth form pass should not be an automatic passport to university—such former heresies are now, in many quarters, articles of faith.

"We cannot afford either the money or the talents to have enough universities to satisfy these demands. Certainly we cannot afford enough universities trained at world standards to do so," Sir David Derham, "Chancellor" of Melbourne University, said earlier this year. Universities were reduced to issuing licences to practice, with scientists, economists and accountants "taking over" a Monash University political science lecturer said in April.

The 1979-81 period will see real growth in tertiary institutions reduced to 1.3 per cent after a recommendation by the Tertiary Education Commission. While taking a slightly higher student load, establishments should cut capital expenditure and make savings of the order of 5 per cent, the commission advised.

The Federal Government's long-term strategy is to channel funds away from the tertiary sector and into technical education. The Government, it seems, has accepted the conventional wisdom that there are too many universities.

It is revealing to glance back at the 1950s, the start of the heyday of educational optimism, when the response to all problems was the magic word more. Hire more staff, enrol more students, apply for more money, and all would be given. Three thousand degrees a year were issued in the mid-1950s. This year, with unemployment at most seven times higher, the figure for bachelor degrees alone was 30,000. Something has to give.

Senator Carrick, the federal Education Minister, is quite clear about what has to give. "We are trying to improve the quality of education," he told a national weekly newspaper recently, "and this does not necessarily mean solving all problems with finances as some people would like."

In the 1978-79 financial

year the tertiary budget was duly reduced by 7 per cent. But the figure is misleading. Funds allocated to universities and colleges were actually slashed by \$26m, while technical and further education took almost a \$19m boost.

The cutback in federal funds has hit building programmes, staff recruitment and research. In the 10 years to 1976 it has been calculated that the money spent per university researcher fell by half.

Most universities have stopped filling tutor jobs as they fall vacant. Academic staff are now largely static, and they will be an aging species. Only 16 per cent are now over 50, and it will take 15 years to work them out of the system. As they get older, their salaries will cost the universities progressively more each year, a phenomenon known as "incremental creep".

The students, too, are not as young as they were. At the Australian National University in Canberra the number of students coming straight from school fell from 73 per cent in 1974 to 57 per cent this year. At Murdoch, Western Australia, and Macquarie, New South Wales, more than half the students are now over 23.

And the practical realities of living in a land where the

milk and honey are rapidly drying up have not helped students. Most universities report sharp drops in enrolments in faculties like architecture and commerce, linked with high unemployment areas, or arts and science, definite jobs. At La Trobe, in Melbourne, a university with a strong emphasis on humanities and social science, enrolments were down by 500 this year—7 per cent of the total.

Those students lucky enough to be in the university and faculty of their choice have their minds on serious things. The late 1970s is an era of student disengagement, of quietness and pessimism.

Issues like uranium and the increasingly conservative drift of federal politics continue to occupy and concern students, but where there would once have been mass rallies and street campaigns there are now smaller demonstrations and meetings. The concern seems to lead to thought rather than action.

The 1960s, dominated by the Vietnam war issue, was a time of deep moral involvement for most students. Until the early 1970s, Melbourne's Monash University had a reputation similar to that of Sussex. It was a predominantly radical campus full of

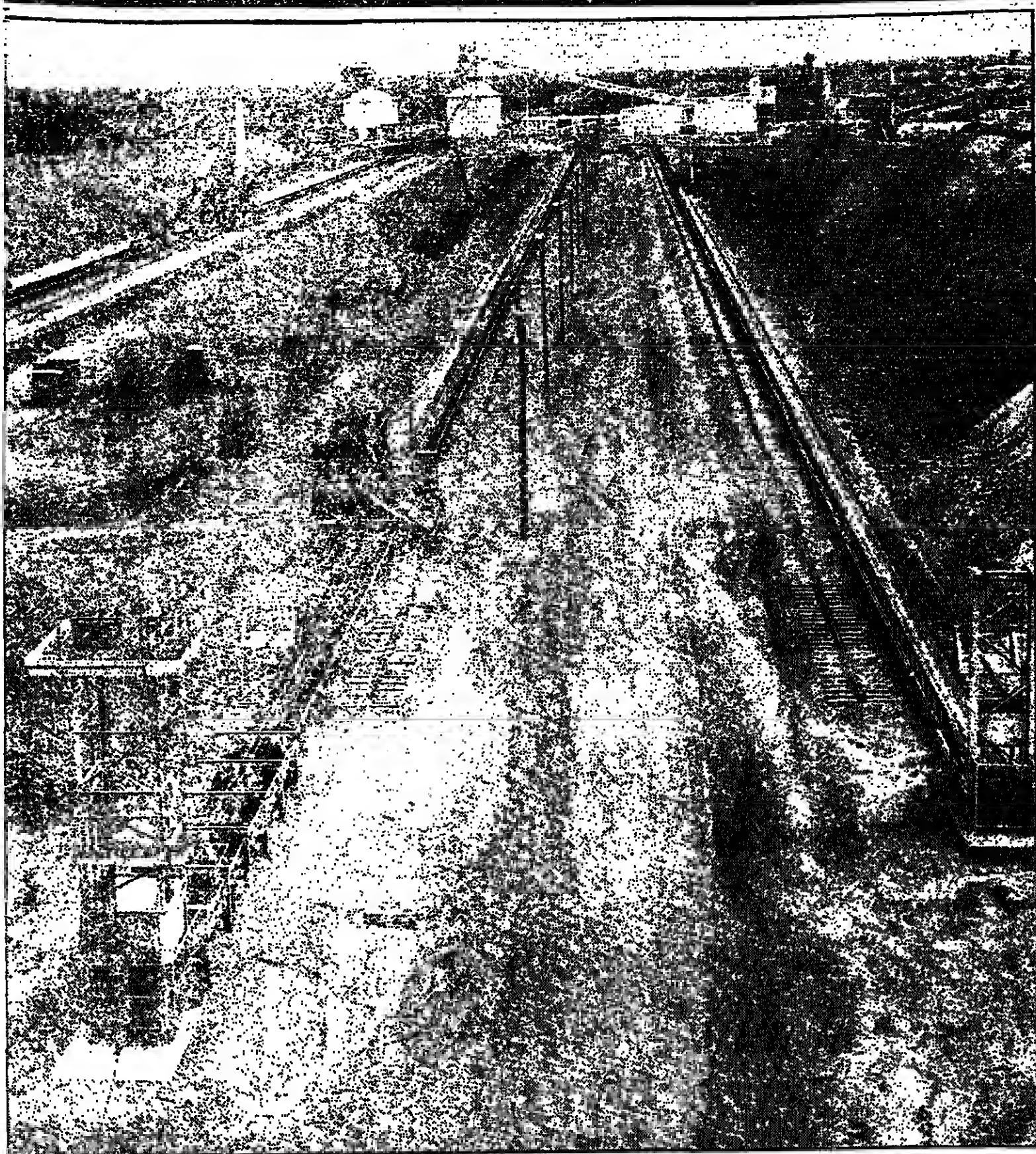
fire and energy. Now it is serene as any.

The 1960s also were in of economic and social tension. The abrupt and forced departure of Whitlam Government in 1975, and its aftermath, an end to any such lingering daydreams and demonstrations emphatically that Australia were weary of their flirtation with change. For students with illusions shattered, it was a hard lesson.

"I have not seen a television camera on the campus for years," Professor I. Turner, head of the department of history at Monash University, said earlier this year. That is as good a barometer of the present student temper as one could hope to find. Activist is dead, according to an administrator at the same university.

"They occupied my office back when the strife was on. But they did not worry me. They used to let me in every day to get files and things. And they cleaned up before they left."

His nostalgia for the old days would not, or imagines, find many echoes in the world. It is a question of "those students are there by the grace of public money, and they better give us something to show for it."



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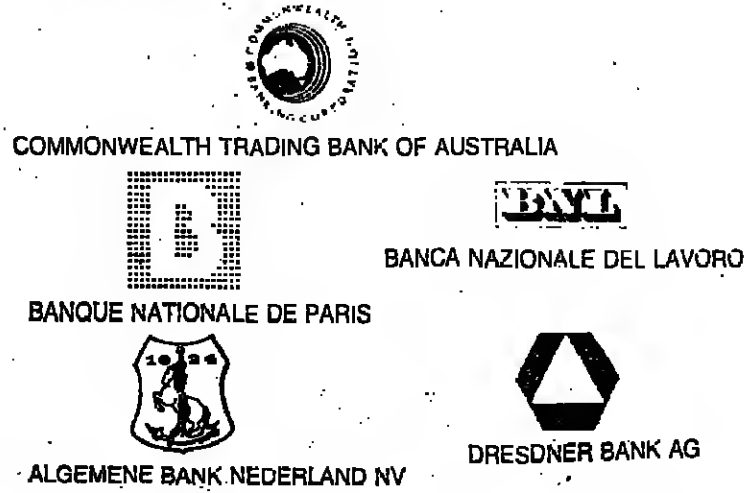
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Aborigines battle to keep identity

Merion Forbes

remote communities in Queensland have become the arenas at which the battle for the right to a distinct identity, people of Mornington and Aurukun, United Church mission, defying the central Government and its agents to have the Government responsible for their identity fail, the second-class citizens of the Northern Territory are "have-nots"—the difference between the two is that the latter are not even recognised as human beings. The difference between the two is that the latter are not even recognised as human beings. The difference between the two is that the latter are not even recognised as human beings.

poverty which sees them educationally deprived, over-represented in the prison population, chronically unemployed and in shameful ill health. (For instance, 25 per cent of Aboriginal children in the Sydney area, close to the centre of health-care facilities, suffer from such severe malnutrition that they are permanently brain-damaged.)

This is how one elder of the tribe, a boy at the time, remembers it. "And they were around and around all lot. All people, all like bullock. Old people, bin here, this country. Old people, like bullock. Big mob, woman, kid, man, too much woman, too much man. Too much blackfeller. All Warlpiri, you know, all Warlpiri. Poor bugger."

strengthened immeasurably their self-perception. From across the border in Queensland, the people of Aurukun and Mornington island watch the relative growth in power and independence of the Northern Territory Aborigines with envy. Since March this year they have been fighting against a Queensland Government takeover of their communities. Aurukun is the major target of Queensland intentions for two reasons: one is that the people have fought, as far as the Privy Council, an agreement entered into, without proper consultation with them, by the Queensland Government with bauxite miners; the other is a decentralisation movement which has seen small groups of Aborigines move back to their traditional country and attempt to establish self-sufficient industries.

Government decision to take over control of the communities from the United Church, the people of Aurukun and Mornington island turned to the federal Government. They knew that after a landmark 1967 referendum, the Commonwealth Government had the constitutional authority to take full responsibility for Aboriginal affairs. At first it seemed as if the Commonwealth Government would use its powers to keep the Queensland Government off the settlements. But over the past few months there has been an abrupt failure of political will on the part of the Commonwealth Government. It has avoided repeatedly a confrontation with the single-minded Queensland Government and it is clearly concerned about what compensation it might have to pay if it takes over the Aurukun and Mornington island land.



Without rights to their traditional land, tribal and semi-tribal Aborigines will lose their culture.

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Microcosm of the world mining industry

Desmond Quigley

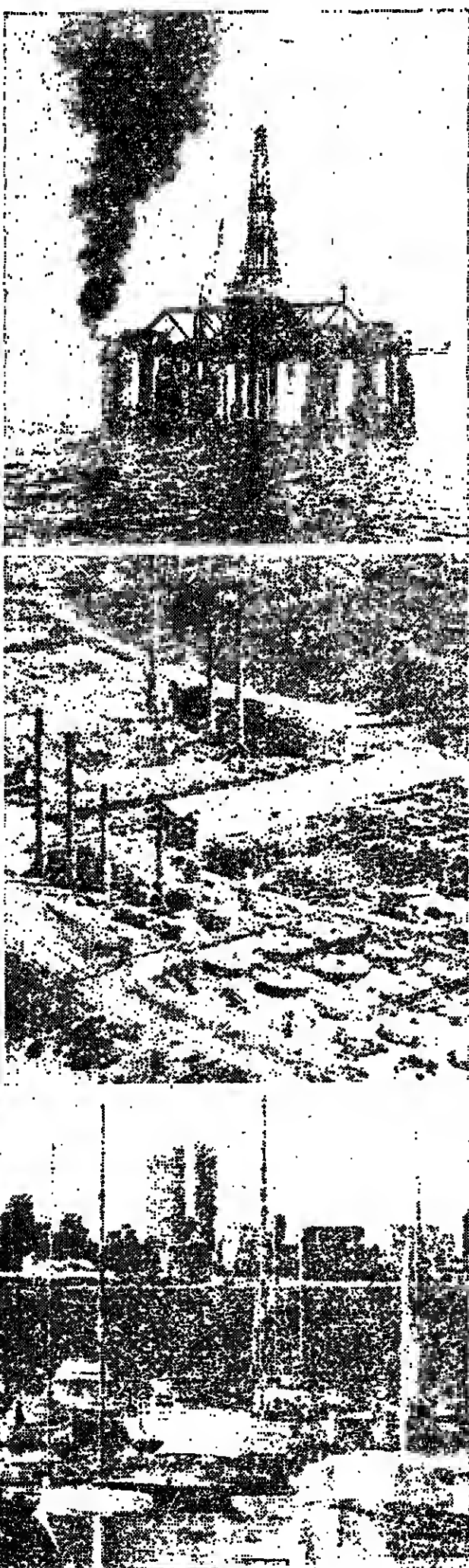
Western Australia is a microcosm of international mining industry. Here in one place are all the frustrations, all the cross-currents, all the propels and influences, all the frictions, all the stages of development, all the constraints, all the groups, state and federal government, all the volatile commodity, all the expanding and contracting demand for certain materials, all the new for coal, restrictions on foreign investment and increasing interest of oil majors—although they are partly held at bay by the foreign investment guidelines.

section have so far proved unsuccessful. And given the present state of the market, Mr Lang Hancock's attempts to develop another deposit have failed with lack of contracts and hostility from state and federal governments fearful that another big project at this time would undermine even further the position of the existing producers. But if the iron and nickel producers are dreaming of better days, the coal industry is booming. The country is already the world's third largest exporter and beginning to export Poland. After a few years of sluggishness because of the international markets and the state of Japan's industry, coal production is rapidly expanding too.

Much of the activity centres on the coal area in the south-west, Queensland, particularly with the Hall Creek and German Creek projects. But to the south in New South Wales, massive reserves have been uncovered in the Hunter Valley and there are four major projects under way. Apart from being rich, these deposits are near the coast and necessary services. The international oil majors have been particularly attracted by the new coal prospects as they seek to diversify their energy sources. While having to work within the foreign investment guidelines, the likes of British Petroleum, Shell, Exxon and Atlantic Richfield have moved in. Australia has been helped by a burgeoning demand for steaming coal, having relied mainly on coking coal, but even with coking coal there are several new projects, such as German Creek. In which, incidentally, the British National Coal Board has a 20 per cent stake. If the oil groups have been attracted by the coal prospects, they have also looked at the country's vast gas reserves. Gerry Oil has for long been in the Jabiruka venture, which has the largest known deposits in the world, while Exxon has recently moved in with Western Mining in the Yellinerie venture in Western Australia—the most substantial prospect outside the Northern Territory. But here the associations have been much less happy, although it is hardly the fault of the oil companies. Uranium has been one of the most divisive issues in Australian society for many years with a large body of opinion, and not just a small vocal minority, as many mining companies try to make one strongly opposed to the development of the uranium reserves. The industry has stagnated since the establishment of the Fox commission in 1975 to undertake a thorough review of the prospects and likely impact of uranium mining. Despite the commitment of the Government last year to uranium mining after publication of the Fox report, albeit with very strict con-

trols both internally and on exports—there have been many false starts. Recently the Ranger project, run by EZ Industries and Fekco-Wallend, was given the go-ahead only to be baulked two days later by state resistance from a section of the Aborigine communities. Aborigines have become an increasingly important factor in mining, but particularly so in the case of the Northern Territory uranium deposits. In some respects it is just as well that the uranium development has been held up since the demand for uranium has fallen with the slow-down in the nuclear power programme throughout much of the world. On the other hand, the delay has allowed other countries to capitalize on the absence of the Australians and to pick up some lucrative contracts.

Environmentalists cut their teeth during the uranium debate suddenly discovering that they had considerably more power than they had been credited with previously. They are now using their new-found experience elsewhere. Apart from uranium one of the most controversial projects is the planned expansion of Alcoa's bauxite mines to the south of Perth in Western Australia. The project, on which the proposed north-west continental shelf natural gas development is highly dependent, is vital to the state's next growth stage. But environmentalists claim that the plans, by leading to the destruction of more Jarra forest, will lead to an increase in the salinity in the water table. This argument, although it gets short shrift at state government level and among the mining fraternity, is an emotive and important matter in an arid state. The state has had a drought for two years and stringent water restrictions had to be imposed. Meanwhile the country is in the grip of diamond fever with the search concentrated in the north of Western Australia. Diamonds have been found by a consortium led by Australia's largest mining company, Conzinc Riotinto. It is not yet known whether the find will be payable or what quality the stones are. But such trifles have not been allowed to get in the way of a spectacular share boom. Gamblers at heart, Australians flock almost lemming-like to the latest "hot" stocks as they did during the nickel era—although in fairness it must be said that London does more than its fair share to stamper prices. Speculation on diamond finds is already high and seems destined to go much higher, unless a major operator such as CRA brings out a very bearish report. Despite the buffeting the mining industry has taken over the past few years it is by and large in good shape for the next major economic upturn, provided there is not a return in some of the more crass antics of the late R. F. X. O'Connor during the Whitlam Government.



Australia's largest ever resource development project is entering its final planning stages—the \$3000M North West Shelf gas fields. Huge as it is, the natural gas project is only one of several projects that will take place during the 1980s. A further \$7000M will be invested in iron ore, alumina, nickel, uranium, coal, mineral sands, solar salt—and oil.

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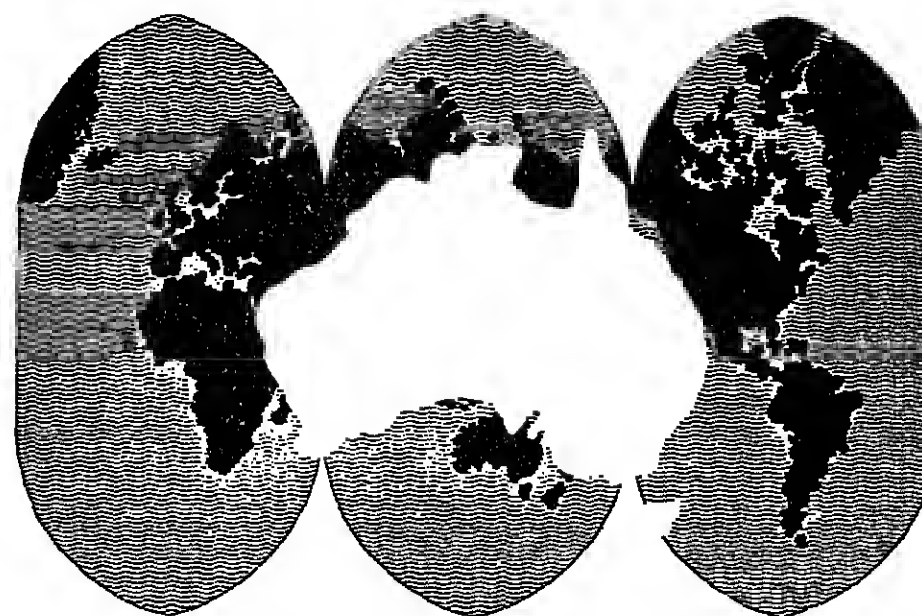
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A nation growing out of its sports fixation

by Derry Hogue

For several decades up to about six years ago, failure at sport in Australia, like unemployment, was something that occurred only in other countries.

As with price rises in wool, wheat, sugar, iron ore and bauxite exports and oil and opal finds, so it was with tennis players, swimmers, long-distance runners and cricketers. The commonplace assumption was that they were the natural outcome of a land blessed with immense good fortune and climate. Given that training methods for the most part differed little from the rest of the world and, allowing only that diet might have been better than in many other countries, how else did each generation explain the astonishing successes of its national sporting heroes?

Popular theory abounded to keep up with each new medal, return of Ashes, cup or trophy and included pronouncements such as the reason Australian batsmen were so good was because they grew up under bright and sunny skies and their eyes became more accustomed to seeing long distances so they saw the ball coming down the pitch a split second faster than their English counterparts.

Certainly though, plenty of steak and salads, if not always for breakfast, produced ever bigger and stronger children and the suburban way of life meant lots of open space to run about in. Most of the country most of the year enjoys a

warm climate and most of the population lives close to water.

Add to that mixture the political geography of the place: a huge island where self-identity had not been forced through invasion nor arisen through internal turmoil. The easy-going, well-fed and unthreatened populace had its share of bush-ranger folk heroes but no national myth.

What better than to look to the stunning results of its sportsmen and women and pretend a reality that all Australians were a great sportspeople. Undoubtedly the myth was also believed outside the country, coinciding with, and thereby overhauling, the other mistaken impression that Australian men were lean, sunbrowned shepherds or surf lifesavers.

A quick and simple trace of the origins of the seemingly national passion for sport could start with the British heritage, particularly its less desirable components of insularity and a fear of culture. Both these aspects were readily transferred.

Removed from the older society it was easy to develop an insecurity about "soft" cultural pursuits, especially in the earlier pioneer days. Recognition of an Australian writer, painter or musician had first to come from London, Paris or New York.

But it was easy to recognize the criterion for being a top sportsman or woman. You came first.

To identify with a long list of successful Australian men and women in just about any sport played internation-

ally was a good palliative against the provincial chip on the shoulder about being unnoticed by the world for any reason other than the extraction of its mineral wealth.

The truth is, and always has been, that no greater number of people in Australia than in comparable countries such as Britain, Canada and America, who have some sporting skill, follow it up and train for big competitions.

There are probably more people in Britain taking part in organized sport per head of population than in Australia. The difference might be that far greater numbers are involved in informal and non-competitive sport. Going to the beach in Australia means surfing and swimming, taking in vitamins from the sun and not sitting at Blackpool looking at muddy pebbles washed over by a cold sea and swathed in rugs against the wind.

Any myth has to have its following but most Australians watch their sport on television and, as regards cricket, unquestionably they do not share the regular attendance and enthusiasm seen in Britain. In Australia big attendances at cricket matches returned only with Lillee and Thomson. Losing is not part of the spirit appreciated by Australian crowds.

In general, the myth has compounded its own demand for success as evidenced by the disproportionate number of Australians among the world champions in such a wide variety of sport from surfing and golf to snooker



Jeff Thomson, terror of the batsman. His style was a potent factor in bringing back the crowds to Australian cricket grounds.

and billiards. The winners are rarely forgotten.

The one sport where there is only a fair rather than excessive share of winners is boxing and the explanation is that most Australians have never gone hungry enough to have to use the ring as a way out of poverty.

But the past 10 years have witnessed a dramatic knock to the sporting superiority to the point where for the first time this century it is no longer taken for granted. The failure to win any gold medals at the Montreal Olympics came as no less of a blow than if Australia

had been bowled out runs in every innings Test series against the played, on Australian people who really feel disaster would be far than in the generation to the late 1960s.

First it was quickly that historically climate and diet had provided the ideal conditions to grow and train the bodies. But other science now a study of transfusions, drugs and puterized schedules and therefore gained the stage over the semi-annual style of Australian. For such a sporting little was given in the of money and facilities the sportsmen end where appearing to be little need for so long.

The second reason the one of greater chance is that Australia undergone such a big transformation in the 20 years. The chip of shoulder might still there these days but just as likely to be in its make-up and is ing more broadly at its.

As one diplomat with tensive experience of Antipodes said in London recently: "In New Zealand it comes to us hood they are still children, but the Alios have grown up. They are like teenagers."

Films find a conscience in place of gumleaf nostalgia

by John Larkin

Films are the great glamour event in the Australian arts. The 16 feature films offered at Cannes, making it the most outstanding contribution of any country, were followed with a new national pride and attention usually given to that old great Australian obsession, sport.

More serious, too, are the actual contents. Fading is the preoccupation with the more romantic ways. Also disappearing are more evocative landscape films from the time of federation and pride in the country growing up confused. Even bushrangers are taking their true place as a thing of the past.

Instead of gumleaf nostalgia there are more subjects of conscience. Two recent such films are Fred Schepisi's *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, and *The Last Temptation*.

There are also films about the environment, such as *The Last Wave*, which includes relationships between black and white, and *The Long Weekend*, in which nature strikes back against having been violated by pollution.

And there is a masterpiece, *Mouth to Mouth*, written and directed by John Duigan, a film about unemployed youth in the city, a topic on everybody's lips as jobs become more scarce in Australia.

Along with the good-byes to Barry McKenzie is the disappearance of the uncritical audiences. While critics used to be dismayed by the almost universal acceptance of anything, the public is now becoming much more discriminating.

One film suffering from new audience awareness and debate is *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, which three months later, is still being discussed. It is claimed it missed its point, having not secured enough motivation for its black hero who goes crazy with an axe and kills many whites.

This and *The Last Temptation* have been alleged to be playing on white guilt, with an argument going on about whether all the Aborigines in Tasmania were wiped out or not.

At the same time *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, a major new film, is suffering by comparison with Philip Noyce's *Newsfront*, which studies two rival newsreel companies in the 1940s and 1950s. It was not ready in time for Cannes and some critics feel it might have had a better chance in the competition.

Also, *Mouth to Mouth*, which cost only about tenth of Jimmie Blacksmith's \$A1.5m is receiving much praise, which brings out the question of where the local film industry will go. In the past 10 years the industry has become progressively stronger. There is no talk of blockbusters and competition with America, while other critics are urging more localized, relevant material, which will also not cripple its makers financially.

It is all part of an identity crisis which is becoming a constant part of life in Australia and films are an important way to reflect Australia and help it to come to terms with itself.

Another reason why the *Jimmie Blacksmith* film has caused an upheaval may be because it is causing audiences to confront themselves and to make a choice about which side they support, black or white. It is not a babit Australians take to kindly, having been accustomed to distraction rather than serious self-examination.

One of the most important plays to be shown for the first time, *Big Toys*, by Patrick White, also caused comment because it too confronted audiences, this time on the subject of uranium, about which there is some debate in Australia, but not yet enough.

The Nobel Prize winning writer's reentry into theatre was generally not greeted kindly. But this critic and a couple of others thought it enormously important work as well as brilliantly written and staged.

Other theatre news has been the success of Steve J. Spears's *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* with Gordon Chater as the aging transvestite trying to make it through the day and night; and David Williamson coming up with yet another successful reflection of the generally undefined Australian society with *The Club*, about football. Both these plays have been good enough to export.

Melbourne now seems sure of the survival of its new third professional theatre company. Hoopla, which, after a rocky start, is happily staging new Australian plays for which it was founded. But in Sydney the Old Tote is about to close despite grants of nearly \$A1m. The major criticism has been its choice of plays, not helped by a lack of Australian content.

Literature has been quiet, except for the loud arrival of Colleen McCullough's *The Thorn Birds*, announcing also the coming of the technique of blockbusting advance publicity, a system now being used regularly also in television so that the product is embedded in the public mind before its release.

Australian writing has reached a levelling off. It has moved out of the past and now has to think about the present. One aspect, though, which is emerging strongly is among the Aborigines. More and more books of bi-verse, biographies and

legends are beginning to appear, as the Aborigines are reasserting themselves as a people, through their culture and their stand on rights.

For the rest, the idealistic days of five years ago under the Labour Government when grants were readily available for writers are now mere memories.

A full-time working fellowship for writers being granted today by the Australia Council is \$A10,000, compared to \$A8,000 in 1973, a 25 per cent increase, while many ordinary salaries in that time have doubled. Money being given to the Australia Council is behind inflation rates and this year it is supporting only about half the number of writers who were being helped in 1973.

The Fraser Government's "federalist" policy has reduced support from what it was under Mr Whitlam, and put more onus on the states.

There has also been something of a reaction against writers being given grants, as though it is against the old work ethic. It is forgotten that the best writing of the past century came not from suffering but from people having the time to be creative.

One subsidized Australian artistic life, though, is actually making money. This is the 16-year-old Australian ballet which is one of the few of its kind in the world securing profit. Yet, for its trouble, it has been criticized for dropping the standard.

And the Australian opera is having success with a new subscription system which means, theoretically, seeing Joan Sutherland in the lead in two operas for \$A5 a performance. The package is 10 operas for between \$A50 and \$A135 and five for \$A25 to \$A75. The opera is after regular subscribers and big audiences, without which theatre gets into big trouble.

For those who think it is still over-run by philistines, it should be reported that the touring Chinese exhibition attracted more people than all the grand finals for the football.



Gordon Chater, one of the most successful of the new wave of Australian art in a scene from *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*.

Investing in Australia's Natural Resources?

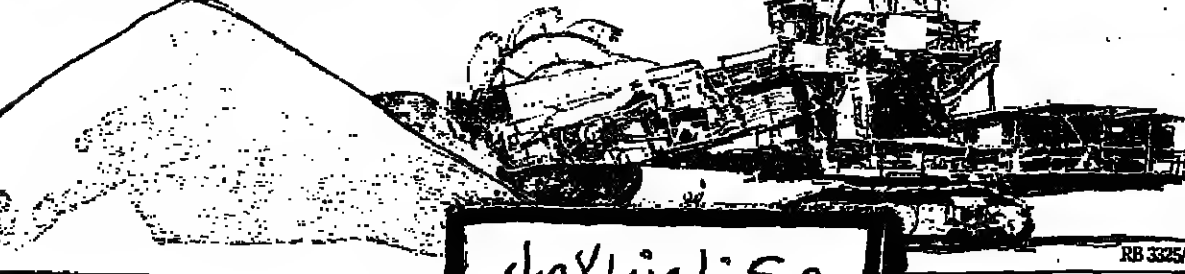
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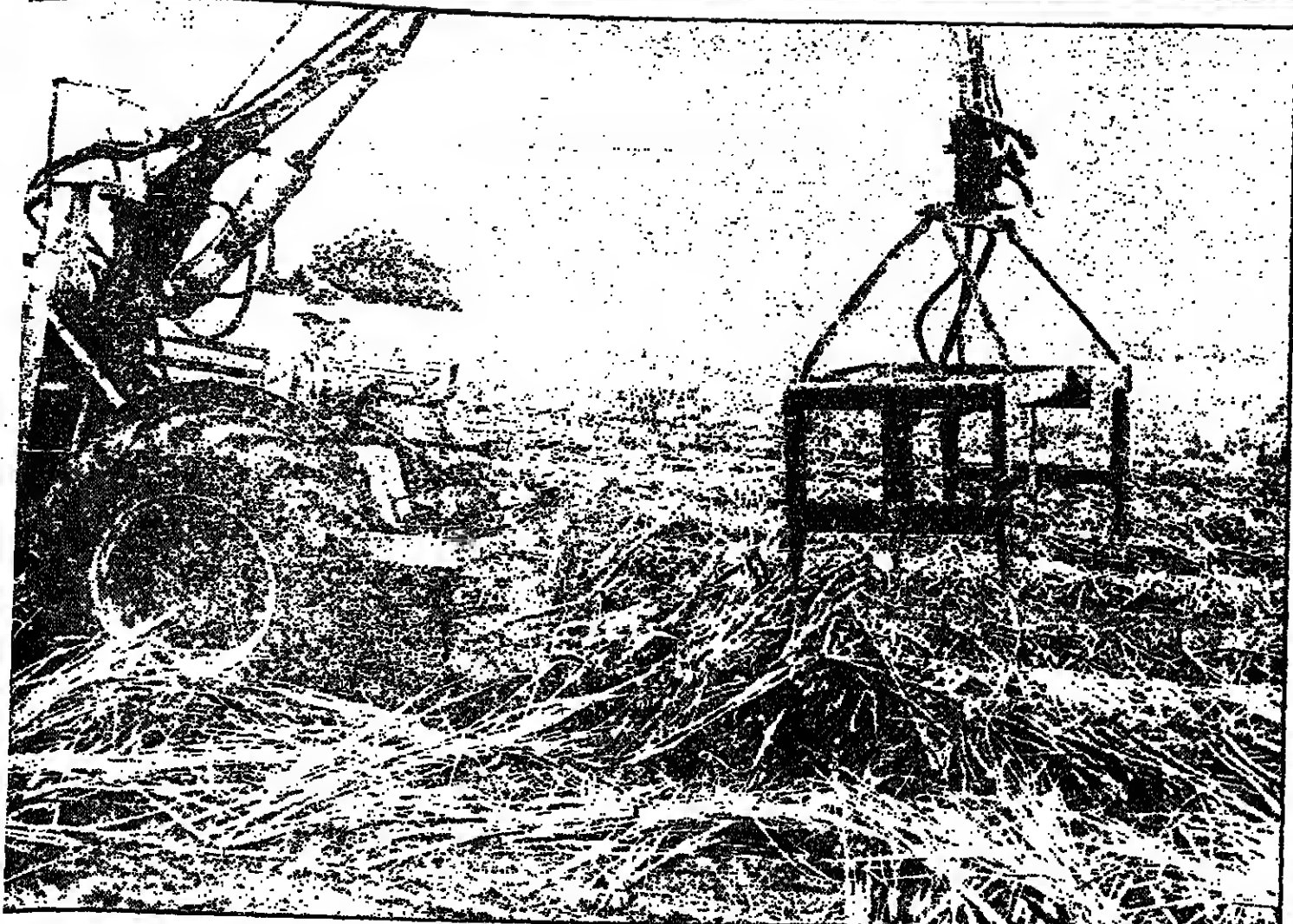
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Sugar cane in the Clarence river valley, New South Wales. Australia is making little headway in its negotiations with the EEC, daily on agriculture.

Not too easy with EEC

by Douglas Aiton

Australia's negotiations with the EEC are not going well. The Government is not going to accept that Australia is relatively powerless and unimportant as far as Europe is concerned. Now the Government has shown signs of accepting this unhappy reality. The Prime Minister himself was unable to make much headway with Mr. Ruyter, the EEC representative, and returned to Australia disappointed.

In the negotiations which are proceeding with the EEC, both within the current Multilateral Trade Negotiations and bilaterally, Australia has three objectives: * An improvement in the conditions of access for Australian products to the EEC through a reduction in import barriers. * More equitable rules for agricultural trade, particularly new disciplines to constrain dumping of highly subsidized products on third markets. * Multilateral commodity arrangements in appropriate cases to help even our fluctuations in producers' incomes.

Common to these objectives is the view that a rational world trading system will embody the principle that efficient producers should be allowed to compete for a reasonable share of markets.

This principle must apply with particular force to the domestic markets of the major world economies—the United States, Japan and the EEC—since if any of these are exempt the world trading system will be weak-

ened. Of course, Australia's particular concern with the EEC is that the EEC has been the least responsive of its major trading partners to this principle. Australia is not allowed to compete for a reasonable share of the EEC market and an imbalance of trading opportunities, developed and sustained through artificial barriers, has resulted in a serious deficit in its trade with the Community.

For Australia, it is now a losing battle. While Mr. Anthony berates the Community for building a wall around itself, Australia's special negotiator, Mr. Vic Garland, complains that in Brussels the Commission had offered "nothing of any value—not even a written reply to our requests."

The trouble was that Australia did not realize quickly enough, back in 1973, that their biggest food export market, Britain, was to slip behind the EEC's common agricultural policy's tariff walls. That barrier has been rising constantly as the EEC's surpluses of its own milk, beef and sugar have risen.

In essence, Australia's

traditional exports to Britain of cereals, dairy products and beef have dropped by 80 per cent since 1973. This has been no help to the struggling Australian economy.

Its beef exports to the EEC last year were down 90,000 tonnes on the 1973 figures. Naturally, the beef farmer and the entire beef industry has suffered tremendously, which may be why in Australian country towns many cars carry stickers reading "Eat more beef".

One legitimate Australian complaint is that the EEC has dumped its own surplus of farm produce on countries that it previously encouraged Australia (and New Zealand) to turn to. Nevertheless, it has been argued that the Australian gross national product per head at \$A6,760 (in 1976) is considerably healthier than the Community average.

The arguments continue. The Australian Government will not give up. The EEC is adamant that Australia and New Zealand are no longer needed. It is stalemate, and a distinct loss for Australia.

Exports to the EEC

	1965-66	1972-73 ('000 tonnes)	1976-77
Sugar	481	427	121
Wheat	684	534	177
Beef, veal	89	110	18
Butter	64	32	0
Canned fruits	113	107	57
Apples and pears	164	103	29
Cheese	9	1	2



Training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, near Canberra. The officer cadets last four years.

All trained up and no-one to fight

Henry Stanhope

24 per cent of all men under the age of 25 serve in the all-volunteer Forces. This is less than the proportion in Britain, but not equal to that in the United States. Apart from their military characteristics, it must be one of the most distinctive features of the Australian defence force. The number of troops has increased during the past year or two, but the total Armed Forces number just over 70,000, more than 21,600 are in the Royal Australian Air Force and nearly 16,400 are in the navy. The relative size of the navy and air force reflects Australia's maritime interests and abundant space. It also indicates Australia's unique position as an island nation, for the most sparsely populated, and away in the bottom corner of Mercator's map, linked to the East and West by a narrow strip of water, separated territorially by oceans of deep blue water. Recruiting went through a patch several years ago, so much because there was a shortage of those who were attracted by the pay conditions (which were still very good) but also because of those who had fallen short of the red standards. But it has improved since then, partly because of economic problems—which, as in Britain, has made the security of military life seem more attractive. The end of the Vietnam war, too, has probably had an influence. Ironically one problem for recruiters—and still more so for military planners in Canberra—remains the absence of any identifiable enemy. Servicemen have to be found and equipped to fight a war which is a matter of shadow boxing, except that the shadow is blurred and indistinct. Mr D. J. Killen, Defence Minister, in his Defence Review 12 months ago, referred to critics who had called for some particular threat to be adopted as the

basis for defence planning. But again he dismissed the option on the ground that it would entail a loss of flexibility and versatility.

"What we need," he said, "is a mix of capabilities against various possibilities, none of which can now be foreseen with sufficient confidence to allow the sort of specific defence planning called for." So the country's services are still configured to cope with a range of contingencies, from serious national emergencies to lower-key local threats.

The establishment of a 200-mile fishing zone, for instance, has drawn attention to the need for surveillance patrols to protect Australian rights. But again, the country's extensive seaboard presents the Canberra Government with problems that are insurmountable.

The job of equipping balanced forces designed to deal with a wide range of contingencies is demanding. So far the ministry has approached it by shopping from a variety of arms suppliers in Europe and the United States. But it is American equipment which now predominates, followed by British, French and West German systems. The French are represented by 60 Mirage fighters and ground attack aircraft, the West Germans by more than 100 Leopard I tanks—which were chosen in 1975 against competition from the American M-60.

The second of two new Oberon-class submarines—additional to four already in service—has left Britain for Australia. Ten American P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, chosen after consideration of the British Nimrod, are coming into service, and the third PFG-7 frigate has been ordered from the United States. The first of 15 naval patrol craft, ordered from Brooke Marine of Lowestoft in Britain, should enter service next year. The others will be built in Australia under the ministry's policy of promoting self-reliance in the supply of defence equipment.

A new multi-purpose communications network, costing more than \$A100m, has been approved. This will enhance command and control procedures, replacing the

existing single-service networks.

But the two most interesting equipment decisions in the recent half of the decade have still to be made. These involve the replacement for the 16,000-ton Melbourne, the Australian navy's only aircraft carrier, which is due to be phased out in 1985, and the new tactical aircraft to complement, and eventually succeed, the present fleet of Mirages.

In both cases the ministry has narrowed the range of options. To replace the Melbourne the navy is looking for a ship of between 10,000 and 25,000 tons—equipped with vertical take-off aircraft like the British Harrier and/or Sea King helicopters. Five models have been drawn up, ranging from a ship capable of carrying 12 aircraft to one which can carry 24—with decisions still to be made on the mix of fixed wing and rotary wing machines on board.

The most obvious answer looks like the British Invincible class 16,000 ton ships which will carry 10 Sea Kings and about five Sea Harriers. But the Australians have been looking also at American, Spanish and Italian shipyards—and the field remains open.

So does that for the tactical aircraft. Initially one squadron will be bought, while the Mirages, after a refurbishment programme, continue in service until the late 1980s. But more will be procured later. (Two of the three operational Mirage squadrons are still stationed at Butterworth in Malaysia.) There are six possible replacements. One is the Mirage-2000 which must stand a good chance of winning the contract. Another is the Anglo-German Italian Tornado Air Defence Variant, and the others are all American, the F-15, F-16 and two versions of the F-18, the F-18A and the F-18L.

Yet another impending decision involves a new 155mm gun for the army, with the choice resting mainly with the Anglo-German-Italian FR-70 and an American gun.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

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A sheep farmer does his rounding up on a motor cycle. Left: poultry farmers sell eggs and chic at Victoria Market, Melbourne.

Farmers look to a brighter future

by John McIlwraith

The Australian farmer has been one of the continent's endangered species in recent years, beset by rapidly rising costs, falling returns, and a hostile climate. But with the adaptability of the vast land's original inhabitants, farmers have reacted with considerable flexibility, increasing productivity, devising new techniques, and in a form of natural selection, reducing their own numbers.

It is impossible, of course, to talk of "the typical farmer", in a country almost the size of the United States, with agriculture ranging from tropical (Queensland) to temperate Tasmania. Contrasts of a different kind emerge: sprawling wheat farms of 8,000 acres, sugar and banana plantations of 20 acres, dairy farms of 50 acres, and cattle stations of a million acres. But if we can examine the mythical average Australian man on the land, we will find that his expectations to the year future are brighter than they have been for years.

A sharp increase in beef prices, more modest improvements in returns for wheat and wool, and a much better season have contributed to an expected increase of 22 per cent in real income in 1978-79. This figure, prepared by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics, allows for expected inflation of 8 per cent. Gross returns to the farming sector will increase by 13 per cent, to \$7,800m.

Farm costs (as distinct from community-wide inflation) are expected to rise by 7 per cent. The Australian farmer, once regarded as the archetypal Australian,

is now difficult to identify in a national cross-section.

In a country with one of the most comfortable standards of living in the world, and consequent high labour costs, there is no future for labour-intensive agriculture. In recent years, as part of the adaptive process mentioned earlier, fewer people have been employed on the land. Australia has, paradoxically, almost always been highly urbanized (or more accurately, suburbanized). In the past quarter of a century this trend has accelerated.

Fewer people own bigger farms and employ machines instead of labour. This has wide ramifications in the country's political and social structure, but the rural survivors find little comfort in their hardiness. Rural products now contribute little more than 40 per cent of Australia's exports (a similar percentage to that of minerals). Twenty years ago farmers provided about 80 per cent of the country's exports earnings. Wool, once the dominant export, now returns about the same as just one mineral, coal.

This decline in agriculture's importance has been accompanied by disillusionment among farmers. Yet the modern achievements have been impressive. Australian agricultural science and technology are among the world's best and have meant that a lone wheat and sheep farmer, running 4,000 acres with no labour help, is one of the most efficient Australians. Sitting in the air-conditioned, stereo-equipped cabin on a great machine, he is the ultimate in the productive agriculturist.

Australian farm products are highly competitive throughout the world if

markets are open to them. But often a farmer is only just learning how to run a capital-intensive, complex business, worth perhaps half a million dollars. Growing things, he finds, is the easy part.

City Australians have always harboured the suspicion that farmers enjoyed a political influence out of all proportion to their numbers. Certainly the National Country Party, the junior member of the coalition which has governed Australia federally for most of the time since the Second World War, has skillfully argued the farmers' case.

And the party's reward for loyalty to the dominant Liberals (in Australia the Conservatives) was a generous number of ministerial posts. However, the Country Party's influence in recent years has declined. Even the fact that Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Liberal Prime Minister, is a wealthy farmer has not convinced most Australian farmers that they deserve the attention they receive.

But there are some comforting signs. The present Government reversed a trend launched by the Labour Party, in its brief term, in which many concessions for people in country areas were eroded. Farmers, too, enjoy considerable benefits under Australia's taxation system, which often annoys other Australian businessmen.

These range from generous rebates related to producing primary products, to schemes to smooth out the dips and bumps in a farmer's income. A plan introduced several years ago permits farmers who have a good year to deposit part of their income with the Government, thus avoiding paying tax on it. They with-

draw this money later, when they are poor, and pay the tax apportioned in that year—presumably much less.

Australia's farmers' incomes depend largely on state of the world economy. It has always been so, the point has been emphasized in recent years, when there have been bitter disputes with the Japanese over imports of sugar and beef, and with the European Community, again over beef.

Prices for many Australian rural commodities, in terms, have declined recently years. (The corollary is that Australians have access to some of the cheapest food in the world.) The downward trend in price for farmers has been arrested this year. Beef prices have risen at least 10 per cent over the past 12 months.

But there is a long way to go, and in the opinion of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, farmers will have to continue to increase their efficiency if they are to retain their position relative to the standard of living of the rest of the community.

The dynamics of the farm sector in recent years have been families running big properties, and in the way maintaining their incomes at reasonable levels to the landscape. But even modest improvements in the world's industrial economies and further improvements in productivity, Australian farmer can look forward to the next two or three years with more hope than he would have had year ago.

The author is on the staff of the Australian Financial Review.

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مركز التبادل

Most sociable people on earth

by Desmond Quigley

If hospitality is a measure of sociability, the Australians must be about the most sociable people on earth. Meals and beds are prepared for friends or strangers at the shortest notice.

This is partly because the country is hot and vast with few hotels, and hotel standards outside the big cities and tourist resorts are low.

Australians are conservative and yet informal (except on such occasions as the Perth races when women wear fur coats on a day like an English summer's day). Their conservative nature reinforces the tradition that if somebody turns up unexpectedly he must be provided for, while the informality qualifies this with "You find us as we are".

I arrived in an isolated mining town to find that the hotel—the only one for a couple of hundred miles—had double booked me and there was no room. One of the mine's managers immediately offered me accommodation. His wife did not turn a hair at my sudden appearance, and I was given full use of their house.

This easy-going attitude leads to much entertainment at home. Because of the climate and the informality barbecues are popular, particularly as they can be easily organized in a garden and do not need much preparation in the kitchen.

In the isolated mining

communities, outdoor catering enables people to give large parties which help to overcome the sense of isolation.

But outdoor eating is not confined to barbecues. In Perth I had lunch on the roof garden of a private house, and the weather was superb as was the view over the Swan river. The meal consisted of four courses and included vichyssoise, lobster and marinated avocados with generous quantities of good Western Australian white wine.

The guests included one of Australia's best business journalists, one of the country's foremost film directors, and a former Gurkha officer. The meal began at 12.30 and ended at 5.30 pm at least the conversation and postprandial quaffing did. The occasion was languid but the conversation frequently energetic, especially when it touched on politics and the Australian attitudes to art. The only reason that the lunch finally ended was that the hostess had to prepare a dinner party for that night.

In the cities there are many restaurants catering for just about every taste and serving many ethnic styles of cooking. (Many are unlicensed although in most cases the waiter will go out to a booze shop if it is close.) Fish and crustacea are popular, although suspicious linger about oysters after the outbreak of food poisoning during the summer because of the polluting of the Sydney oyster beds.

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